"Peace on Earth"

INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY

YOU ARE INVITED!

COME TO THE

"Peace on Earth"

INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Dodger Stadium
1000 Elysian Park Ave.
Los Angeles, Calif.

Dates: July 14-20

Admission Free. ***No Collections.***

Rooms for assembly delegates may be listed with:
Watchtower Convention, 5921 Echo St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90042
Phone: (Area code 213) 254-3044

For details about the assembly and the organization that is sponsoring it, read:

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ASSEMBLIES That Are Delightfully Different

"Peace on earth!" Who would not like to see that? You yourself can see a foregleam of that very thing during a week immediately ahead. How so? Because you are invited to the "Peace on Earth" Christian assembly that is coming to your city. The delegates to it not only practice peace themselves but foresee from Bible prophecy peace on earth world wide in the near future.

Where will these assemblies be held? They will be held in twenty-five principal cities around the world. They are all international assemblies. And you are invited to attend. But what will you see and hear that will make them delightfully different?

Expressions from Outsiders

Consider some comments by outsiders, public officials, news reporters and others who have found these assemblies to be delightfully different.

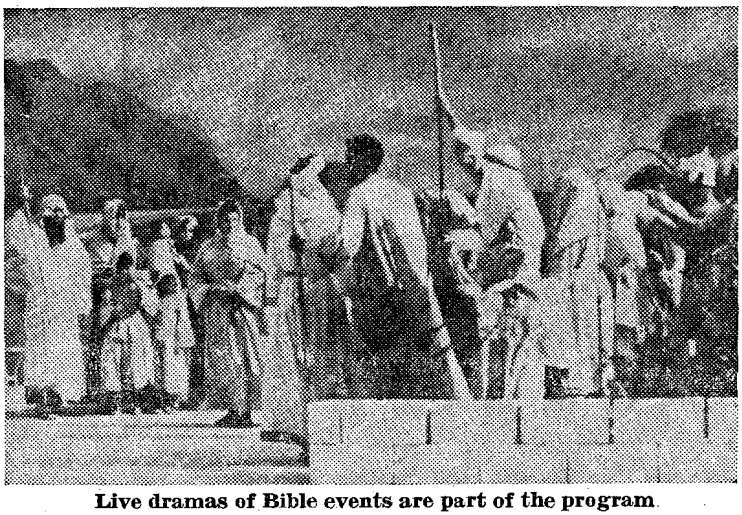
When city officials toured the convention facilities used by Jehovah's witnesses in Pasadena, California, in 1963, their expressions were: "Amazing!" "Marvelous!" "Never saw anything like it in my life!" A person at City Hall said: "It is amazing to have more than 100,000 visitors in a city for more than a week and not one incident from the group to be reported to the police."

In Oxford, England, a stadium official said: "I'm amazed to see a happy spirit and willing cooperation between all your workers and especially when they are not being paid for what they are doing." In Zambia, Africa, a secretary of a local political party attended an assembly of Jehovah's witnesses in that country to write down anything that might be said against his party. He heard nothing of that nature. In fact, he was so astonished at what he heard and at finding that there was no bad language and no stealing that he began studying the Bible with the Witnesses.

A businessman who was shown around the convention grounds at Allentown, Pennsylvania, in 1967, was so impressed that he promptly phoned a friend in a nearby TV station and said: "Instead of the newspapers and TV spending their time showing news of wars, robberies, rape, and so forth, they should come here to Allentown and see Jehovah's witnesses. They have the right way and make sense."

A news reporter who walked about the grounds of this assembly wrote in his paper: "There are no parades, no banners. There were only persons, young and old, quietly trying to better themselves in the eyes of God. To one walking around the Fairgrounds during the evening program it was a cross-section of America. There were teenagers with neat haircuts, matrons with three or four children in tow, men in working clothes and others in well tailored suits. . . . One of the most striking features was the good behavior of the children."

Thus these persons were impressed with what they saw at an assembly of Jehovah's witnesses. If you attend one this year you also will find it to be refreshingly different from the usual run of conventions.



Live dramas of Bible events are part of the program

In fact, many persons who attend an assembly of Jehovah's witnesses for the first time find it so delightful that they decide to take in more than one session. A man in Columbus, Georgia, had this experience with an assembly held in that city. The assembly made such an impact on him that he came back for every session. Another man who attended the Allentown assembly was so amazed at what he saw and heard that he arranged to attend another assembly of Jehovah's witnesses held two weeks later in Trenton, New Jersey. He said: "This has to be Jehovah's organization; I've been in the world, and from what I see Jehovah's witnesses are a miracle."

The Program

At all assemblies of Jehovah's witnesses, the program is different every day. There is variety in the program, Bible talks being interspersed with personal experiences and thrilling Bible dramas. A live, costumed Bible drama will make any international assembly of Jehovah's witnesses that you attend this year a delightfully different experience for you if you have never attended one before.

The fine Bible talks at the assembly build up respect for the Bible as being God's Word. They help delegates to expand their knowledge and understanding of it. Oftentimes new aids to Bible study are released.

The program always has something in it for everyone—young people, adults, single persons and married persons. It strengthens their faith, helps them to cope with personal problems and temptations. In 1968, there was a two-hour drama entitled "What Young Folks Are Doing in the Ministry." With a cast of about thirty characters it frankly and dramatically portrayed the problems facing modern-day Christian youths and gave sound counsel for them.

The assembly program usually begins each day in the afternoon at 1:40 and continues until 4:35 p.m. After a two-hour break for something to eat in the cafeteria or at a refreshment stand, the program continues until 9:05 p.m. Music from an orchestra of volunteer players and songs from the audience begin each session.

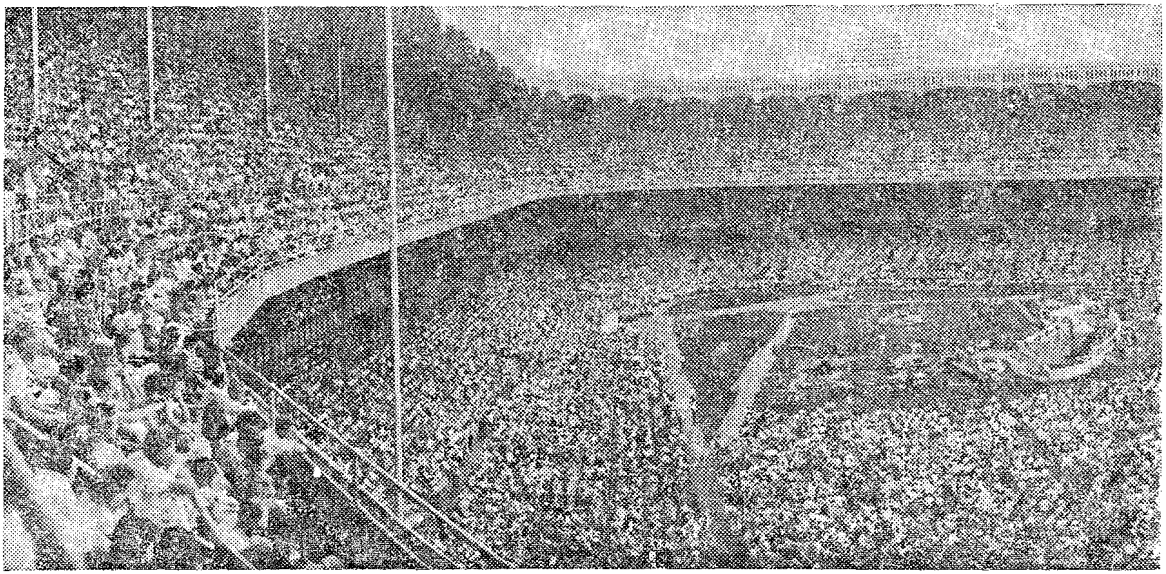
The People

You will be impressed by the delegates even as many news reporters were. You will not find them to be wide-eyed fanatics, shouting and screaming in religious excitement. But you will see an audience that is calm and attentive, quietly following in their Bibles the scriptures quoted from the platform.

The speakers will not be shouting and screaming. They will not be worked up to a high emotional level. Instead, they speak in a conversational style with warmth and feeling. Rather than work on the emotions of the audience, they reason with them, encourage them to follow along in their Bibles and thus give wholesome, upbuilding spiritual food.

You will see at the assembly an intermingling of the races without any of the racial tensions so evident in the big cities of the United States. The racial attitude of Jehovah's witnesses was well expressed by a Nigerian Witness when attending an assembly in Germany. He remarked about the European Witnesses: "They do not look upon us as being black, but welcome us as real brothers and members of one big family."

Observing their interracial harmony at an assembly in Florida, the St. Petersburg *Times* of July 14, 1968, had the following headline: "Witnesses Practice Racial Harmony." The paper then commented: " 'Black and white to-



253,922 convened at Yankee Stadium and Polo Grounds . . .

gether.' The Jehovah's Witnesses don't sing about it, they just practice it. Not only has the convention been a massive example of racial harmony with black and white worshiping together, but it has tucked some 700 Spanish-speaking Witnesses into its programs without a murmur."

At international assemblies of Jehovah's witnesses there are usually delegates present in the native costumes of their countries. In the series of around-the-world assemblies in 1963 such delegates were a most interesting sight to all who attended these assemblies. In Stockholm, Sweden, many of the local people went out to the assembly grounds just to have a good look at these unusual costumes.

You will be impressed by the great many young people in attendance and at how well behaved they are. This in itself makes the assemblies of Jehovah's witnesses different in these days when so many young people are rebellious, noisy, violent and not the least bit interested in religion.

Regarding the young people present at an assembly in Denmark a local newspaper observed: "This is not an old people's affair—there are many younger married couples and single young people, youths, teenagers and children. All listen attentively and confidently to the talks and Biblical explanations given by their elders. There is no youth rebellion among Jehovah's witnesses."

You will also see whole families at the assembly because Jehovah's witnesses do things together as families. Commenting on the presence of families at an assembly in Rochester, New York, the newspaper *Democrat and Chronicle* of July 13, 1968, said: "The Witnesses give the impression of living their religion daily. Walking among them and watching them at work makes it impossible not to be aware that these are warm, animated, clean-living people. At a time in our society when so many parents and children seem to go their own ways, the prominence at the assembly of family groups is noticeable. It's a pleasure to have them in town."

Baptism

At every assembly arrangements are made for the baptism of persons who have studied with the Witnesses for a while and want to demonstrate their dedication to God and their willingness to do his will. They do this by being completely immersed in water as Jesus was. His baptism set the example.

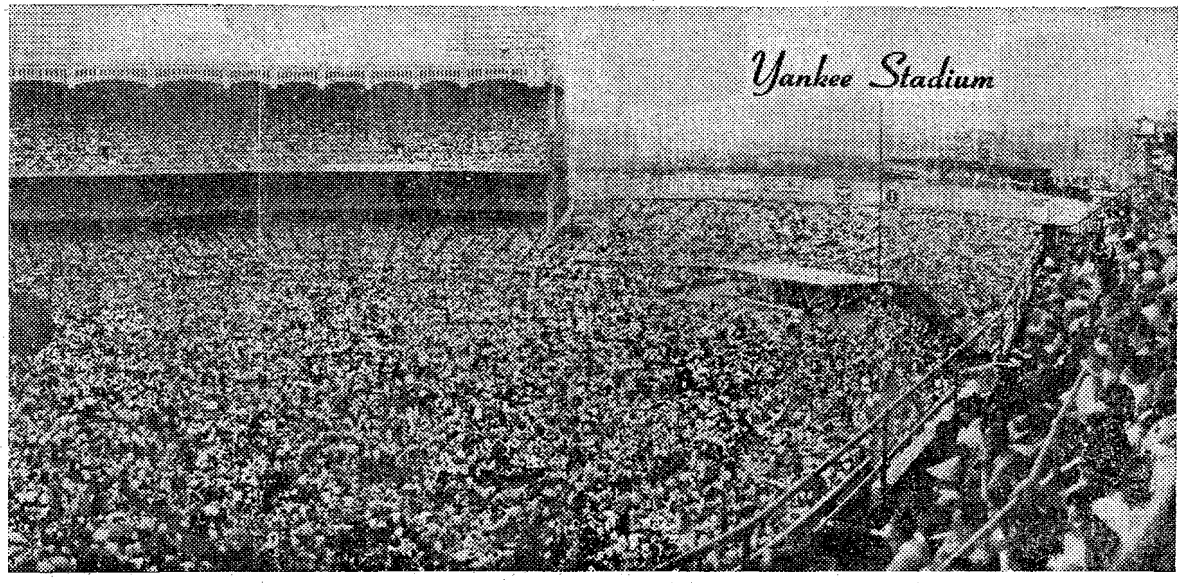
In the series of around-the-world assemblies held by Jehovah's witnesses in 1963 there were 16,653 persons baptized and acknowledged by the Witnesses as fellow ministers of Jehovah God.

Before candidates for baptism are accepted they are required to meet certain qualifications. One of these is that they have an accurate understanding of the truths of God's Word.

In the big New York assembly of 1958, there were 7,136 persons baptized at a nearby beach. Reporting on this, the New York *Times* of July 31, 1958, said: "With a precision that would do justice to the military, 7,136 Jehovah's witnesses were baptized by total immersion yesterday in a two-and-a-half-hour ceremony. . . . There were no emotional outbursts, no horseplay in the water. Each Witness gave the impression of a person bent on a serious mission. The only voices raised were those required to direct the baptism traffic."

Honesty

If you lose something of value while at the assembly you will most likely find it at the Lost and Found Department. The honesty of Jehovah's witnesses is another factor that makes their assemblies different and that impresses outsiders.



for international assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses in 1958

Delegates enjoy warm association in assembly cafeteria

During an assembly at Brockville, Ontario, Canada, a delegate went to make a purchase in a local store but found that her wallet was missing from her purse. She explained to the clerk that perhaps she had accidentally dropped it at the assembly place, and she hurried back to see if it had been turned in to the Lost and Found Department. Sure enough, it was there. She returned to the same store and to the same clerk to complete her purchase. The clerk was astonished that the wallet had been found and turned in.

In Pomona, California, a delegate to an assembly of Jehovah's witnesses there lost $1,000 worth of camera equipment. After notifying the police he discovered that the equipment had been found at the assembly and turned in to the Lost and Found Department. He promptly notified the police that it had been found, and a police officer came to the assembly grounds to verify this. The officer said: "If I hadn't seen this, I wouldn't believe it." At that very moment a young child turned in some money he had found. The officer remarked: "If people everywhere were like this, I wouldn't have a job very long."

Cafeteria

For the convenience of the thousands of delegates in attendance at an assembly of Jehovah's witnesses, volunteer workers prepare three meals a day. These are served in a temporary cafeteria that they set up under tents or in some other suitable location on the grounds. The cafeteria is so well organized that thousands of people can be served a hot meal in a very short time. During a week-long convention in London in 1963, there were 2,000 volunteers who served regular meals to 50,000 delegates. The whole serving arrangement maintained an average of almost 500 meals a minute at the busiest moments.

During their big New York assembly in 1958, two cafeterias were prepared to feed the 150,000 persons present for the daily sessions. They were capable of handling as many as 67,000 persons an hour. The ability of the Witnesses to feed huge crowds at a phenomenal speed has aroused the interest of officials of the Civil Defense and Red Cross. At an assembly in Costa Mesa, California, the cafeteria operation was observed by officials of these organizations. They fired question after question as they viewed the mass-feeding operation, the kitchen, food preparation, tray washing and bakery. They were deeply impressed by what they saw.

Although many tons of food are processed during the course of an assembly so as to provide meals in the cafeteria, the Witnesses have no problems with food poisoning or other sickness from the food served. A high degree of cleanliness is maintained in connection with the preparing and serving of food. When a 5,000-pound shipment of turkey was found to be slightly soured at one assembly, the whole shipment was set aside and not used. The menu was promptly changed to safeguard the health of the delegates.

During the 1963 assembly in New York representatives of the Health Department endorsed the cleanliness of the Witnesses. They said that they could grant privileges to the convention organization far beyond what they would to others, because, as they stated, "you have such interest in your people that you would do nothing that would jeopardize their health."

When visiting the cafeteria you will see many serving lines with food being served on trays in an assembly-line manner. From the serving lines each delegate carries his tray to waist-high tables where he eats the food while standing.

Volunteer Workers

No matter how large an assembly might be, all the work necessary for making it a success is done by volunteer workers. Witnesses with skills volunteer their help to install the sound system, to erect an attractive platform for the speakers, to install steam kettles, to lay piping, to cook for the cafeteria, and so forth. Others operate the cafeteria and refreshment stands, direct traffic, help people find seats, sweep the floors, clean the rest rooms, assign rooms for the delegates, and do any number of other tasks that are necessary for the successful operation of an assembly.

Much work is necessary before an assembly even begins. The stadium or auditorium has to be thoroughly cleaned, and all the equipment set up for operating the various departments of the assembly. Cleaning the auditorium or stadium is a standard practice with the Witnesses. Regarding the huge assembly held in Yankee Stadium in New York in 1958 at which 250,000 people were in attendance on the last

day, the *1959 Arena, Auditorium & Stadium Guide* stated:

"Not so much as a match stick or discarded candy wrapper could be found in the stadiums and other areas they had rented. Thousands of their members, men, women and children, made up a committee to leave every square foot of area as clean or cleaner, than they had found it."

Every night during the 1963 assembly at Yankee Stadium four hundred volunteer workers pitched in to sweep the entire stadium. Within an hour and a half the job was done. Regarding an assembly held in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, the newspaper *Twin-City Sentinel* of July 16, 1968, quoted the coliseum manager as saying: "Without reservation, that's the cleanest, most orderly bunch of people that has been in the coliseum in the nearly 10 years I have been there."

In connection with another assembly, at Lewiston, Maine, the Lewiston *Daily Sun* of July 9, 1968, reported: "And when the three day convention had ended, the lawns and grounds of the two public buildings were as clear of litter as could be, in sharp contrast to their condition after far-smaller gatherings and events are held there. . . . Regardless of one's religious belief, and whether it agrees with the feelings of the Witnesses, this was an unusual demonstration of faith which was in itself uplifting."

Financial Support

No collections are taken at assemblies of Jehovah's witnesses. Perhaps you wonder, then, how the assemblies are financed. It is expensive business to rent a big auditorium or a huge stadium such as Yankee Stadium for a week. But it is not just a matter of only one stadium. In 1968, a total of 120 district assemblies were held in the Northern Hemisphere alone, encompassing twenty-five countries.

Despite the expense, you will never hear a single plea for money at any assembly you may attend. All expenses are covered by unsolicited voluntary contributions.

Other Features

Oftentimes the assembly program is multilingual. In the United States there is frequently a simultaneous Spanish program for the Spanish-speaking Witnesses. This is put on in an adjacent building or tent. At the 1958 assembly in New York there were separate language meetings for parts of the program presented in Arabic, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Albanian, Danish, Greek, Hungarian, Polish, Slovak and Ukrainian. Delegates from 123 lands attended that assembly.

At the Stockholm assembly in 1963, a special platform was built in the shape of a four-leaf clover. From each of the four leaves of the platform the program was translated simultaneously into the languages of the four Nordic countries. Each language was broadcast to a specific section of the stadium that was set aside for that language. Several of the 1969 assemblies will have Spanish sessions.

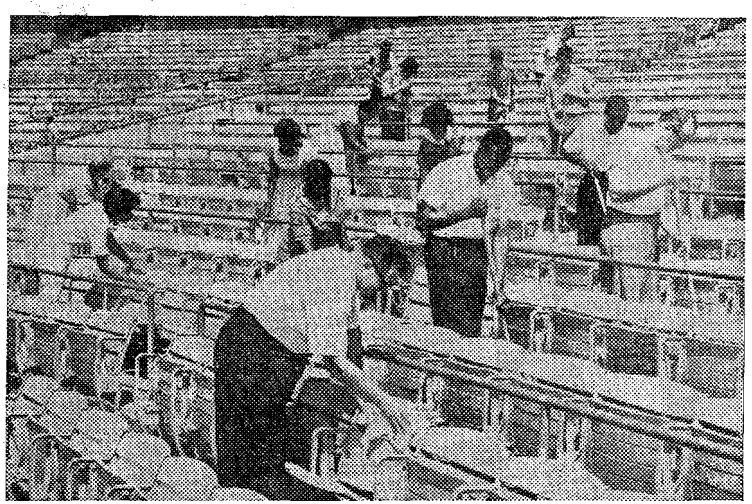
Provisions are even made for deaf-mutes to benefit from the fine program. At Yankee Stadium in 1958 there were six Witnesses who were deaf-mute interpreters. They took half-hour turns to relay the convention talks to those persons unable to hear or speak. They did this by means of sign language, translating what was said from the platform almost as rapidly as it was said.

Accept the Invitation

In many ways you will find the "Peace on Earth" International Assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses delightfully different from any assembly you ever attended. A man who went to an assembly of the Witnesses for the first time in Sedalia, Missouri, remarked: "It warms my heart to see you people. It is so different from what I have read." A local businessman in Shreveport, Louisiana, who went to an assembly there observed: "It's so different from any other time I have been to the fairgrounds, it just doesn't seem like the same place. . . . You people have something I certainly wish I had."

Their assembling together regularly is in accord with the Scriptural admonition at Hebrews 10:24, 25, which says: "Let us consider one another to incite to love and fine works, not forsaking the gathering of ourselves together, as some have the custom, but encouraging one another, and all the more so as you behold the day drawing near." The fact that the program of each assembly does indeed incite those present to "love and fine works" makes the assemblies of Jehovah's witnesses delightfully different.

Accept the invitation to attend an assembly of Jehovah's witnesses. It will cost you nothing, but you will gain much in a spiritual way from the experience.



All work at the assemblies is done free by volunteers

Special Features OF THIS ASSEMBLY

"THE APPROACHING PEACE OF A THOUSAND YEARS" —this is the title of a thrilling one-hour talk to be given on the last day of this international assembly! Do you long for enduring peace? Then don't miss this program. It will bring you comfort, encouragement and great hope in these critical days.

For weeks prior to the assembly, and during the assembly week itself, you will see this discourse advertised everywhere. Posters around the city will draw attention to it. Lapel cards worn by assembly delegates will feature it. Tens of thousands of handbills will be distributed to invite all interested persons to attend. In addition to the out-of-town delegates, thousands from the assembly city are expected to be on hand to hear this principal talk of the program. Will you be among them? We sincerely urge you to plan now to be present.

Not only this important part of the program, but all sessions of the assembly are open to the public, and no collections are ever taken.

When to Come

Every session of the assembly features a different program, alive with practical value, and you are invited to attend them all.

On most days the program will begin in the afternoon at 1:40 and close at 4:35. Evening sessions begin at 6:30 and end at 9:05. On some days, as shown on page 32, there is a program in the morning too. If you want to come for the entire day, you are welcome to have your meals with us in the assembly cafeteria.

If possible, why not be on hand the very first day of the assembly when the keynote address is delivered. The subject: "Acquaint Yourself with God and Keep Peace."

Bible Dramas

Almost every day of this international assembly will include, not only lively discourses, but also a Bible drama. Some of these will have modern-day settings; others will be put on in the dress of Bible times. For example, you will be able to see a drama featuring King Saul and his son Jonathan, David the son of Jesse, and lovely Abigail. And as you watch, you will come to realize what it all means to us today.

In a different kind of drama, by means of audio presentation, you will be able to live the unusual experiences of the prophet Jonah; also those of Daniel at King Belshazzar's court just before the collapse of the Babylonian Empire. And, remember, there is no charge to attend any of these dramas.

The Bible Is God's Word

Living as we do in an age when the Bible has been subjected to constant attack to undermine faith, it is most appropriate that a full afternoon of the assembly be devoted to a discussion of the evidence that the Bible really is the Word of God. When you hear others say that parts of the Bible are just "myth," or are unscientific, can you produce facts to prove that they are wrong? How many solid arguments do you know that prove that the Bible is not merely the writings of men but that it really is the Word of God? This program will fortify your faith.

The Book of Revelation

When did you last try to read the Bible book of Revelation? Did you wish you could understand it? You can. The talk "Final Woes to Enemies of Peace with God," which focuses attention on Revelation, can help you. Be on hand to hear it.

Problems of Family Life

By means of talks and dramas with modern-day settings, this "Peace on Earth" assembly will come to grips with the problems of family life. Is your homelife really happy? Do the members of your household truly communicate with one another the way they should? Do problems that arise in connection with your children cause you anxiety? We believe that you will appreciate the portions of the program that discuss these matters in a straightforward way.

Attitude Toward Authority

Another problem that has pressed itself on the attention of people everywhere is the matter of respect for authority. Youths are in rebellion against parents and teachers. Adults openly defy government officials. You are affected by these things, but do you know what the Bible says about the course to pursue in the midst of them? Regardless of your position in life, you will benefit greatly from the discussion of this subject on the assembly program.

International Reports

Another colorful portion of the assembly will be firsthand reports from all parts of the earth. Today there are fast-moving developments in the field of religion. The lives of tens of thousands are being dramatically changed each year as a result of Bible education. Eyewitness reports are part of the program.

Yes, there is much at this assembly that is of intense interest to you. The program is practical, enlightening and encouraging.

You are invited! Why not mark the assembly dates on your calendar right now. Details as to the day and time of each program are on page 32.

Largest ROOMING HUNT in History!

The largest rooming hunt in the history of the world is under way. Your city is no doubt involved. Good, clean Christian people will be looking for rooms.

Can you offer a room? If so, please contact the Watchtower Convention Rooming Department.

Rooms are needed for the delegates to the "Peace on Earth" International Assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses. For how long will they need a room? About a week, and in some cases less than a week. The delegates will be at the assembly most of the day, and they will have their meals at the assembly grounds, but they do need a place to sleep.

Hotels and motels in your area will not be able to accommodate all the convention delegates, so rooms are needed in private homes. In the city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where some 34,217 delegates came to a convention of Jehovah's witnesses in 1963, 13,010 were accommodated by hotels and motels, but a total of 21,207 delegates had to be housed in private homes. Proportionately the same generally holds true for other cities where conventions are planned. Some rooms are offered free, others at nominal cost.

What kind of people are the delegates to these Christian assemblies? Perhaps the best way to answer that is by expressions of people with whom they have stayed.

Expressions by Others

One householder wrote the Watchtower Convention Rooming Department, saying: "We had the pleasure a few years ago of having a family of your organization living with us. The party left good memories for us. All your members are good and gentle people. I now can offer you again my two bedrooms with four beds."

Another householder said: "Your representative made such a wonderful impression that we rearranged our plans to try to have sleeping quarters for you. I've had members of your group in my home during three conventions and would be pleased to have them this year. I've always found your group, those I've met, very sincere, and a credit to any place they go to. I've been more than pleased to have them."

A business couple at Americus, Georgia, was approached by one of Jehovah's witnesses. The man spoke up and said, "My wife and I were talking about you people the other day." After telling about another religious group that left his motel in a mess, he said: "My wife and I said, Why couldn't they have been like Jehovah's witnesses? When they were here they left their rooms so neat and clean that we didn't have to do much after their assembly. Even the maids mentioned the difference in Jehovah's witnesses. We're so glad to have you folks back!"

At another place, the lady in charge of a motel said: "I would like to ask one favor of you. I would like you to send the same people in here as I had at your last assembly. They were the nicest and neatest people I ever met." Of course, that could not be promised, but she was assured that others of Jehovah's witnesses would be just as nice and neat. She replied: "I'm sure that they will be just the same, but I just thought so much of the others that I wanted to have them back."

The *Daily Pilot* of Costa Mesa, California, editorially stated: "The hospitality (of Costa Mesans) is warranted. In their previous convention here, the Jehovah's witnesses have proved to be welcome guests . . . We're happy to have them back." In Costa Mesa, 47 percent of the rooms listed in private homes by the Rooming Department were given free by the hospitable people of that city.

Why Rent Your Room?

Of course, your reaction to inviting strangers into your home may be a negative one. This is understandable in this era of crime and violence. You have a right to be concerned for your life and property; in fact, you should be. But, at the same time, does this mean that one should lock up all the fountains of goodness within himself to survive these fearful times? No, it does not mean that at all.

To live in such a fearful way not only would be ignoring the commandment of God to be hospitable but would be doing injury to oneself. The Bible, therefore, wisely advises: "Follow the course of hospitality." "Do not forget hospitality, for through it some, unknown to themselves, entertained angels." (Rom. 12:13; Heb. 13:2) Yes, the course of hospitality is a wise one, a godly one, when judiciously extended.

The people coming to this convention are Christians who sincerely endeavor to live in harmony with the wholesome principles of the Bible. And, as you have already noted in the expressions from those who provided rooms for them in the past, this makes them pleasant guests to have in one's home.

Having some of the delegates in your home can also bring a special blessing to you. How so? Well, if you are a person who would like to get a better understanding of the Bible, they will be glad to take time during their stay in the city to assist you. They do not press their religion on those with whom they stay. But they are glad to go out of their way to answer the questions of those who want to know what the Bible says.

Also, there will be delegates from other lands at this assembly, as well as from all parts of your country. It can be en-

joyable to get acquainted with people from other places.

We hope that you will be able to rent a spare bedroom to one or more of the convention delegates. Such generous gestures are not overlooked either on earth or in heaven. Jesus Christ declared: "Whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water to drink because he is a disciple, I tell you truly, he will by no means lose his reward." (Matt. 10:42) If a cup of cold water warrants a reward from the heavenly Father, how much more so will your offering of a bed!

Volunteer Workers

The job of finding rooms for thousands of convention delegates is all done by volunteer workers. This means that thousands of Jehovah's witnesses spend many thousands of hours hunting for rooms. City block after city block is carefully searched. Some blocks are worked three to six times!

The people, as a rule, are quite sympathetic. They seem to understand the need for the many calls. Often they respond by urging their own relatives and friends to open their homes. In fact, these later calls yield more accommodations than the first calls primarily for this reason. Also the assemblies usually receive additional publicity by means of radio, newspapers and television. And, too, people know by the second, third or fourth time around whether they will be going on a vacation or not, if they will be having visitors during the week of the assembly, and so forth.

One of the greatest boons to the rooming search is the landladies themselves who remember Jehovah's witnesses from previous assemblies. A Witness in charge of the rooming work in New York said: "A very large number of our accommodations were called in to us by landladies. Our phones were kept so busy that some of them waited till after midnight to get a call through, or sent us a wire. Many others just came to the Rooming Department in person to offer us accommodations." What is it like to engage in this rooming hunt?

Those who engage in this rooming hunt have many interesting experiences. For example, one girl was rudely turned away from the door by a man who did not even give her an opportunity to explain why she had called. The next day he stopped her on the street and apologized by saying that he thought she was one of Jehovah's witnesses but later had learned that she was looking for rooms. He had a room, he said, and if she wanted it, she could have it. The girl thanked him, disclosed that she was one of Jehovah's witnesses, explained about the convention and said she would still be glad to list his room. Shocked, he reconsidered for a moment. Then he said he did not wish to make another blunder and happily let her have the room.

When a rabbi's wife asked her husband about listing some rooms with Jehovah's witnesses, he told her: "By all means list them, and with no charge." He said that Jehovah's witnesses are the only people that he would trust in his home.

One kind landlady offered her rooms free, as well as free meals, happy over the prospect of having real Christians in her home. "It is a small thing to do for God who has been good to me," she said.

At Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada, one lady told a young witness of Jehovah that, though unable to offer a room for the use of our visiting delegates, she wished she could. The householder continued, "You see, the minister of our Dutch Reformed Church told the congregation that they should give rooms to Jehovah's witnesses as they were

Witnesses arriving at home where accommodations have been provided for assembly delegates

teaching about God's kingdom." In this same city another landlady unable to list rooms gave the Witness who called $5 as a donation to cover the cost of a room elsewhere.

A householder in Trenton, New Jersey, asked if the delegates would pay for the rooms. She was assured that they would. She thought she might get her children to double up, but was not certain. Then she gained courage and listed three rooms. She also gave an address of another woman, who had her son sleep on a mattress on the floor so that the room could be available for Jehovah's witnesses. This was amazing because her own Baptist church was having an "association meeting" at the same time and they were in need of rooms too. But she said that she would rather list her rooms with Jehovah's witnesses.

When a householder was approached in Salina, Kansas, she said that out-of-town guests were arriving and that she could not possibly list any rooms. After the Witness left, the householder decided to write to her guests and explain to them that she would be having her house filled at the time with other guests, Jehovah's witnesses. She told them that they could arrange to stay somewhere else, because there was always a possibility of having them but she could not always have Jehovah's witnesses in her home. Eight delegates were housed.

Rooming Headquarters a "Beehive"

At the Rooming headquarters there is a hum and efficiency like those of a beehive as volunteers take care of the clerical details. The volunteer workers carefully match accommodations and requests, as to price, location, arrangement of rooms, and so forth. Family groups have to be kept together. Conventioners from countries with currency restrictions may have to be housed in free rooms.

The landlady's interests are also looked after. A cross-reference card is typed out and filed under the landlady's name. Two notification cards are made out. One card goes to the convention delegate, and the other is sent to the landlady, giving her the name and address of the conventioner who will be staying at her home. The date of the delegate's arrival is also given. The delegate is thus able to communicate with the landlady.

Also special attention must be given to the requests of the delegates who might be blind or deaf or have some other handicap.

The last few weeks prior to the convention the Rooming Department is about the busiest place in the whole city. Before one recent assembly, from eight in the morning till nearly midnight it was difficult to reach the Rooming headquarters on any of its telephones.

One woman, after trying for three days to call on the telephone, finally took a subway from her home and spent an hour traveling across town, just to see if the telephone could actually be that busy. She was absolutely astounded at the whirl of activity that she saw.

Rooms Needed Throughout the Earth

Since international assemblies of Jehovah's witnesses will be held in twenty-five principal cities around the world this year, the great rooming hunt will be carried on in each of them. Some of the excitement can be recaptured by reflecting on what has happened at past conventions. In Stockholm, Sweden, it was expected that the job of finding rooms for delegates would take at least four months. But the response on the part of the Swedish people was so generous that the rooming work was brought to a close four weeks ahead of schedule. And there were 3,000 extra beds available in case of need.

To overcome a shortage of accommodations in the cities of Korea where assemblies were held, dormitories were set up in Kingdom Halls, school classrooms and judo halls. Patiently Jehovah's witnesses put up with the inconveniences of having families split up so that men and women could be in separate dormitories. In so doing, they reflected the fruitage of God's spirit, namely, love, kindness and mildness.

In Munich, West Germany, the city officials allowed Jehovah's witnesses to use ninety-one of the Munich schools as dormitories. In this way the Witnesses were able to make room for 41,286 persons. The German people showed their appreciation of the privilege of being hosts to a Christian assembly in many ways; some of them sheltered in their homes from twenty to thirty persons.

The job of obtaining enough rooms was no small problem in Milan, Italy. House-to-house rooming work had never been done in Milan before. This is because the law of the land forbids private families to receive guests or roomers in their homes on payment, even for just one night. So in order to surmount this legal barrier it was necessary for Jehovah's witnesses there to obtain special permission from the government in Rome. The government authorities readily appreciated our problem and granted special permission for a house-to-house search for rooms in private homes. The response was very gratifying. Accommodations were offered for 10,027 conventioners!

In 1963 Jehovah's witnesses in the Republic of the Philippines sent out some 600 volunteers from many congregations in search for rooms. They located enough accommodations for 9,000 delegates, and the majority of these were offered free of charge. Some Witnesses even built additions to their houses at great cost to themselves so that they could accommodate more delegates. The chief of police of Manila, as well as the wife of the mayor of the city, both made arrangements to house delegates. A businessman in Caloocan City offered accommodations for eighty delegates!

The largest rooming hunt in history is now on. The call is for *rooms!* Will you express your hospitality by offering your spare room, not free necessarily, but at a reasonable rate?

If you have not already availed yourself of the opportunity to accommodate some of Jehovah's witnesses in your home during this assembly, why not do so the next time they call at your door to ask if you have a spare room to rent to their delegates? Better still, seek them out by telephone. You will have assisted in the largest rooming hunt in history.

People Who Really Believe The BIBLE

What distinguishes the delegates that you may meet at the "Peace on Earth" International Assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses? You will find that it basically lies in the fact that they really believe the Bible to be the Word of God. They are unlike great numbers of professed Christians today, including many clergymen, who consider the Bible to be old-fashioned or fiction. They believe that what Jesus Christ spoke is indeed 'the truth that he heard from God.'—John 8:40.

The Christian witnesses of Jehovah thus believe the sixty-six books comprising the Bible to be the inspired Word of God. Not only that, but they believe in following the Bible as their guide in life. Yes, far from considering the Bible to be old-fashioned, the Witnesses are convinced that it is as up-to-date as today's newspaper. They believe that Jesus Christ knew what he was talking about when he stated of his Father's Word: "Your word is truth."—John 17:17.

To the Witnesses the most conclusive testimony that the Bible deserves to be believed is the accuracy of its prophecies. No human can accurately foretell the future, but the Bible has done this ever so many times. Thus numerous prophecies foretold outstanding events in the history of God's ancient people Israel. Ever so many prophecies give details regarding the life of Jesus Christ. And other prophecies describe in detail the events of our own day.

No Uncertainty About God

Great is the uncertainty about God today. Many noted theologians teach a death-of-God theology. But the Witnesses believe the Bible when it tells them that the Creator is "the living God," that He is "from everlasting to everlasting" and "the King of eternity."—Heb. 10:31; Ps. 90:2, *RS;* 1 Tim. 1:17.

God's Name

Additionally, Jehovah's witnesses believe that God has a personal name, just as the Bible shows. Perhaps you have seen this name in your Bible. Many churches and cathedrals, especially those dating back to the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, feature the divine name in Tetragrammaton form (יהוה). The Tetragrammaton is defined as "the four Hebrew letters usually transliterated YHWH or JHVH that form a biblical proper name of God." Many churches in Europe have this name of God in frescoes and murals that embellish walls and ceilings.

Some churches even have God's name spelled out in Roman characters on a part of their building. For example, the name JEHOVAH is on the ceiling of St. Martin's Church, Olten, Switzerland.

The personal name for God appears in the Bible some 7,000 times. God's name is found, for example, in the King James Version Bible at Psalm 83:18, which reads: "That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth." The latest and most scholarly Roman Catholic translation of the Bible, *The Jerusalem Bible,* while preferring the pronunciation "Yahweh," likewise recognizes that God has a personal name that cannot be rendered simply as "Lord."

Jehovah's witnesses believe in using God's name, especially since Jesus Christ said: "I have made your name known . . . and will make it known." (John 17:26) In fact, Jehovah's witnesses get their own name from the Bible, as at Isaiah 43:12, where it says: "'You are my witnesses,' is the utterance of Jehovah, 'and I am God.'"

They See a Paradise for the Future

Today many scientists fear for the future of the earth and humankind. Among the grounds for such fears are nuclear weapons, contamination of the earth, sea and air, and the population explosion. Recently Professor Richard A. Falk of Princeton University said:

"Man may be skeptical about following the flight of the dodo into extinction, but the evidence points increasingly to just such a pursuit. The planet and mankind are in grave danger of irreversible catastrophe if the political structure that now prevails is not drastically changed during the next few decades. . . . There are four interconnected threads to the planet—wars of mass destruction, overpopulation, pollution, and the depletion of resources. . . . The basis of all four problems is the inadequacy of the sovereign states to manage the affairs of mankind in the 20th century."—New York *Times,* April 7, 1969.

But the witnesses of Jehovah do not share such fears, real though such dangers are. Why not? Because they really believe what the Bible says about a change in government for the whole earth and that this change by means of God's kingdom will make it a Paradise.

What reason do they have for entertaining such a hope? Well,

did not Jesus tell his followers to pray for God's will to be done on earth as in heaven? He certainly did. (Matt. 6:10) Can you imagine what that will mean, God's will done on earth as in heaven? What is God's will for men? That they love Jehovah God with all their heart, mind, soul and strength and that they love their neighbor as themselves. When that is done world wide there will be no violence, no crimes, no injustices, no war. —Isa. 2:4; Mark 12:29-31.

But that is not all. Jehovah's witnesses believe that it never was God's will for man that he should suffer from many kinds of diseases, grow old and then die. It is only because of the sin of the first man, Adam, that we do. (Rom. 5:12) Jehovah's witnesses thus teach that God's original purpose was that man should live forever in perfect health in a Paradise earth. That was the prospect held out to Adam and Eve while in Eden. And so God's Word assures us that as a result of God's Kingdom rule, "he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain by any more."—Rev. 21:4.

The Christian witnesses also believe what else is implied by such promises. And what is that? That this earth will abide forever. In their ministry the Witnesses often quote the inspired psalmist who said of God: "He has founded the earth upon its established places; it will not be made to totter to time indefinite, or forever."—Ps. 104:5.

But do Jehovah's witnesses believe that the blessings of that Paradise are limited only to those who happen to be living when it begins to hold sway over the earth? No, they believe that the Bible holds out hope for untold millions that have died and are sleeping in the grave. And what is that hope? That they will come back to life through a resurrection, just as Jesus Christ promised: "Do not marvel at this, because the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out."—John 5:28, 29.

But perhaps you wonder why Jehovah's witnesses believe this, since you may have been taught that man has an immortal soul that at death goes either to heaven or to a fiery hell. However, Jehovah's witnesses really believe the Bible when it plainly tells us that at the time of man's creation he *became* a living soul. (Gen. 2:7) They really believe it when the Bible says that "the soul that is sinning—it itself will die." (Ezek. 18:4) They believe that the first man Adam really died and went back to the dust from which he came.—Gen. 3:19.

Jesus Christ Is Their King

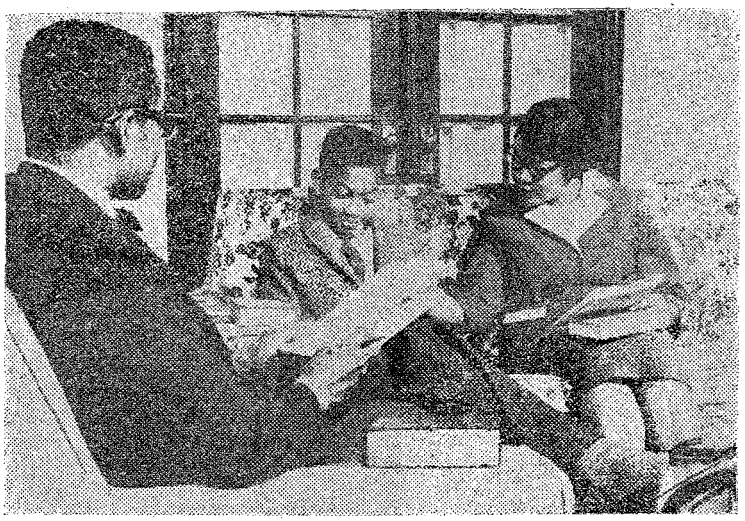
Unlike many persons today who believe that Jesus Christ was simply an ordinary human, a fine humanitarian, Jehovah's witnesses believe that he is really the Son of God. And they believe that Jehovah God will use Jesus Christ to bring about Paradise on earth. (Luke 23:43) So Jehovah's witnesses teach from the Bible that Jesus Christ had a prehuman existence, and that he came to earth to bear witness to his Father and die for the sins of humankind.—John 8:58; Phil. 2:5-8.

Jehovah's witnesses really believe in Jesus Christ, but not that he was God incarnate, or clothed with flesh, or that he is a member of a Trinity, coequal and coeternal with his heavenly Father. Why do the Witnesses not teach that Jesus is part of a Trinity? Because the Bible tells us that Jesus is God's only-begotten Son, "the first-born," and the beginning of God's creation. So he could not be coeternal with his Father. And further, Jesus referred to his Father as "my God" and said "the Father is greater than I am." So by no means could he be coequal with his Father as the Trinity doctrine teaches. —Col. 1:15; John 1:14; 20:17; 14:28; Heb. 5:7, 8; Rev. 3:14.

These people who really believe the Bible also teach that Jesus Christ is now ruling as God's appointed king in heaven and that 144,000 others will be associated with him in the heavenly kingdom.—Rev. 3:21; 14:1, 3; 20:4-6.

Striking Changes Coming Soon

All these blessings of Christ's Kingdom rule are not far off, Jehovah's witnesses strongly stress. How can they be so certain of that? Because Bible prophecies show that we are at the end of this system of things. Jesus himself foretold how we could tell that the end of this old system of things is at hand. He said there would come upon one generation great wars, famines, earthquakes, increased lawlessness; and this same generation would also have the good news of God's kingdom preached to it.—Matt. 24:3-14.



Family Bible study is a regular practice in Witness families

So Jehovah's witnesses believe that Jesus' prophecy is having fulfillment in our day and has been since 1914. We therefore have strong assurance that we are indeed in the last days of this wicked system of things. This wicked system will end in violence in what God's Word calls Armageddon, God's kingdom destroying all governments in opposition to it.—Rev. 16:14, 16; 19:11-21; Dan. 2:44.

They Live by the Bible

Jehovah's witnesses prove they really believe the Bible, not only by what they teach, but also by how they live. With the psalmist they say: "Your word is a lamp to my foot, and a light to my roadway." (Ps. 119:105) The Bible serves as a lamp and a light by reason of its divine principles, laws and commandments. It makes known to them what is right and what is wrong; what is wise and what is foolish; what is loving and kind and what is hateful and selfish. As a result they enjoy improved conditions in every kind of human relationship.

Because of Bible principles and commandments, the Witnesses refuse to share in fomenting civil strife and disorder. (Rom. 13:1-7) Not that the Witnesses do not feel for those suffering injustices. They do. But they know that these conditions are primarily due to the fact that Satan the Devil is the "god of this system of things" and that he has misled mankind. Only when he and all his demon angels are out of the way will it be possible to straighten out mankind's problems. That will be accomplished by God's kingdom. Then nothing will harm or destroy.—2 Cor. 4:4; Rev. 12:9; Isa. 11:9.

Jehovah's witnesses follow the example of Jesus Christ, who did not mix in politics or agitate for social reform. He said of his followers: "They are no part of the world, just as I am no part of the world."—John 17:16.

Following Bible principles, they show no prejudice or discrimination. Regardless of race or skin color, nationality or language, they treat all others as they themselves want to be treated. (Luke 6:31) They know that God made out of one man all that live on this earth. They welcome to their Kingdom Halls all who would worship God in spirit and in truth.—Acts 17:26.

In the matter of sexual morals they also follow God's Word the Bible. They know they must cleanse themselves from "every defilement of flesh" and "let marriage be honorable among all, and the marriage bed be without defilement," since "God will judge fornicators and adulterers." They cannot agree with certain clergymen of Christendom who state that there are "advantages of adultery," and that homosexual relations can be "quite virtuous." Rather, they agree with God's Word, which severely condemns all such practices.—2 Cor. 7:1; Heb. 13:4; Rom. 1:24-32.

In the family relationship the Witnesses recognize the Biblical principle that the husband is the head of the family. He has the obligation to love his wife as his own body and to rear his children according to Bible principles. The wife, for her part, is to show deep respect to her husband and assist him in rearing their children. In turn, children are to honor their parents and obey them in everything. This is spelled out for them time and again in the Scriptures, as at Ephesians 5:22–6:4.

That this type of training brings good results was noted last year by *La Presse*, Canada's largest French daily, August 7, 1968. Among other things it stated: "Another useful contribution of Jehovah's witnesses is the accent this group places on family unity, respect for the authority of the family head and participation by adolescents in common endeavors. In these three spheres we get the impression that certain of their methods might be studied and profitably used by other religious denominations."

Interested in Their Fellowman

Today many clergymen are working for social reform and economic betterment of the masses. But Jesus and his apostles concentrated their energies on preaching the kingdom of God. —Matt. 9:35.

So Jehovah's witnesses put first the doing of what Jesus prophesied for these "last days." And what is that? He foretold: "This good news of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations; and then the end will come." (Matt. 24:14) This prophecy means preaching good news. But it also implies a warning, for it says that when the Kingdom preaching is finished then "the end will come," the end of this wicked system of things. The Witnesses are working hard to obey this prophetic command to preach the Kingdom good news before the end comes. Thus their Kingdom preaching is really a lifesaving work.

During 1968 more than a million Witnesses were active in some 200 lands and islands. They devoted more than 200 million hours to preaching and teaching God's Kingdom truths, resulting in more than 82,000 new baptized disciples.

Jehovah's witnesses are not trying to convert the world. Nor do they pressure persons to accept their beliefs, but permit each one to make up his own mind freely. In carrying out these activities they are showing that they love God with all their heart and their neighbors as themselves. (Mark 12:29-31) And since, as Jesus once said, "there is more happiness in giving than there is in receiving," these Witnesses are a very happy people. Proof of this you can see by visiting the assembly to be held in your area.—Acts 20:35.

Because of their really believing the Bible and putting it to work in their lives the Witnesses have earned themselves a fine reputation. Thus the *Twin-City Sentinel*, July 16, 1968, told of stadium manager Neil Bolton being so impressed with their behavior that he asked one of the Witnesses what accounted for it. The reply he received was: "It's just the Bible. We live according to the commandments." According to that paper, "that caused Bolton to think: 'If the rest of us could get a little bit of this rubbed off on us, we'd be a better world, wouldn't we?'"

THE WORLD HEADQUARTERS
—Sixty Years in Brooklyn!

THINK of 1,155,826 ministers—far outnumbering the worldwide army of Roman Catholic priests and all the Protestant ministers in the United States combined! This is, in fact, the largest single body of preachers in the world! They devote upward of 200,000,000 hours yearly in Bible education, and they do this work voluntarily and free of charge.

THINK of their making 89,903,578 return calls on people seeking spiritual guidance and holding home Bible studies with 977,503 persons and families! And all of this is without charge.

THINK of their placing 157,511,892 magazines and 21,674,179 Bibles, bound books and booklets that explain the Bible into the hands of the reading public.

These figures in a very limited way describe the extent of the Kingdom-preaching activity carried on by Jehovah's witnesses in 200 lands in the year 1968 alone!

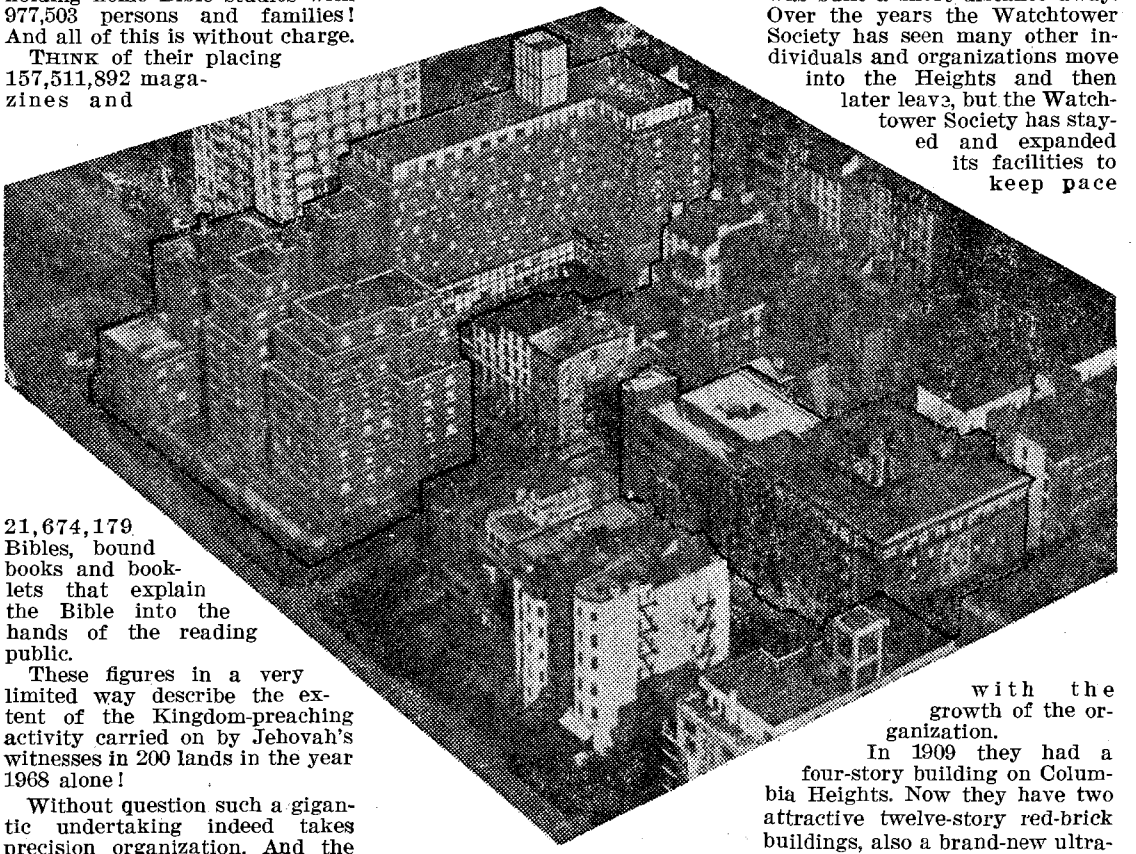
Without question such a gigantic undertaking indeed takes precision organization. And the organization used by Jehovah's witnesses to produce literature in 165 languages and to direct their worldwide Christian activity is the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society.

The Headquarters in Brooklyn

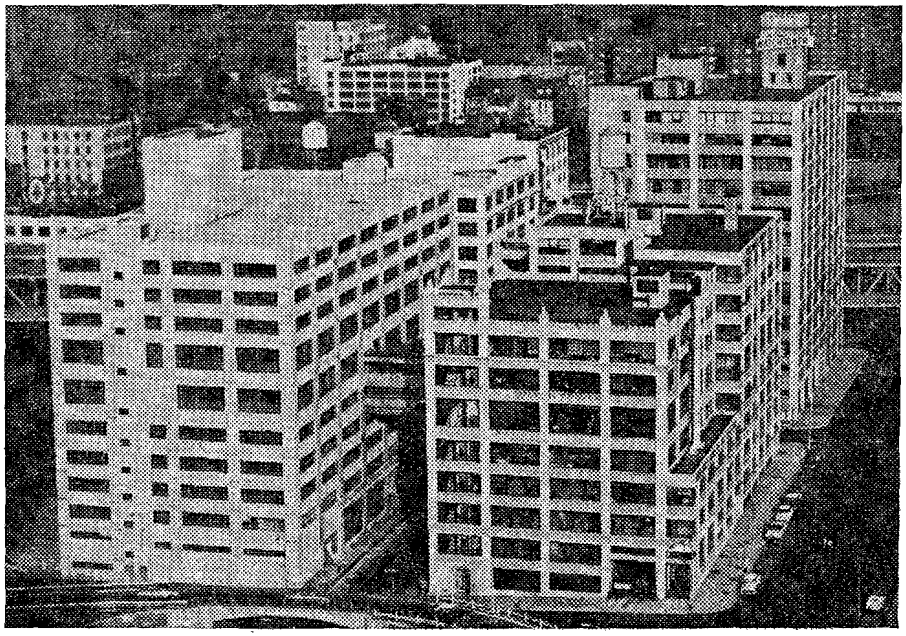
At the end of the East River of New York's bustling harbor, just across from the famed Wall Street financial district, is the Bethel home, the headquarters of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. (Bethel is a Hebrew word meaning "House of God.")

The Watchtower Society is a longtime resident in the Brooklyn Heights neighborhood. It was in 1908 that they first purchased property here, and on January 31, 1909, they dedicated their new headquarters. This was some twenty years before the well-known Towers Hotel was built a short distance away. Over the years the Watchtower Society has seen many other individuals and organizations move into the Heights and then later leave, but the Watchtower Society has stayed and expanded its facilities to keep pace with the growth of the organization.

In 1909 they had a four-story building on Columbia Heights. Now they have two attractive twelve-story red-brick buildings, also a brand-new ultramodern brick structure of seven stories, with other adjoining buildings. Here more than 1,150



Bethel Home and administrative offices of Watchtower Society; 1,150 ministers live here



Watchtower Society's factory in Brooklyn covers four city blocks. Bible literature in 146 languages is produced here

men and women, including all the officers of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, live and work. Nearly a hundred of them have personally lived here for more than twenty years. Here also is located the Watchtower Bible School of Gilead.

From here the preaching of God's kingdom, as commanded by Jesus Christ at Matthew 24:14 and Matthew 28:19, 20, is directed through 98 branch offices earth wide. Two-thirds of Jehovah's witnesses live outside the United States. Into the headquarters office flows a flood of some 950,000 pieces of mail each year, and 470,000 pieces are sent out to all parts of the earth in a single year.

Bethel, in fact, is a small city within the borough of Brooklyn. It has its own barber shop, laundry, dry-cleaning plant, kitchen, shoe-repair shop, dentist's office, infirmary and libraries.

The first two aboveground floors of one of the twelve-story buildings are encased in marble and glass and house the offices of Gilead School, with its classrooms, a large lecture hall, and other offices. The purpose of this school is to give special advanced training for missionary service in all parts of the world. By 1965, graduates had been assigned to 141 lands.

The remaining floors accommodate the 100 Gilead students who enroll for the five-month course and, of course, the regular Bethel residents. Others live in the older twelve-story building across the street, including the president of the Society, Nathan H. Knorr. When filled to capacity with two Witnesses to a room, the buildings shelter 1,150 members. No racial distinctions are made in living quarters. Here Chinese, Japanese, Negroes, Spanish, Germans, Italians, Arabs and Jews —people representing more than thirty nationalities—live side by side in harmony. Truly an international family and a happy one! Guided tours of the premises are regularly provided for visitors. Recently a newsman after visiting the headquarters reported: "In three hours of sight-seeing, I didn't meet a single bored-looking worker. Everybody, devoutly convinced he is doing Jehovah's work, is happy, enthusiastic, and efficient." That is the way it should be in the house of God.

The new seven-story structure is the first building of its kind ever to be constructed in a historical area anywhere in the United States. The plans for the building were approved by the Landmarks Commission. This home will accommodate a hundred persons, two to a room.

A happy spirit pervades the home. A bell rouses residents at 6:30 a.m. They bathe, dress and assemble in four dining rooms for morning worship, which begins sharply at 7. Members sit around tables that seat ten. The meals are presided over by the president, if he is in town. The day's Bible text from the *Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses* is read and discussed. Various ones who have been asked to prepare comments are called upon to speak. The discussion lasts about twenty minutes. There is prayer and then breakfast. The meal lasts about fifteen minutes. The dining rooms are tied in by closed-circuit television, so that all can see and hear the programs originating in the main dining room.

Smoking is not permitted, neither is profanity. All residents of Bethel, from President Knorr to the newest member, get the same allowance: room, board and $14 a month allowance for clothing and incidental expenses.

The Watchtower Society's Farms

As you can well imagine, feeding the staff of hard workers and the Gilead students three times a day is no small task. The Bethel family on a single day may consume 500 pounds of bulk hamburger or 900 pounds of turkey or, for breakfast, 150 dozen eggs! One meal can represent a large steer or three hogs or 350 chickens. In a week's time the family may eat 12,600 eggs, 400 pounds of butter and

drink 1,300 gallons of milk! This food is largely provided by the Watchtower Society's farms in New York and New Jersey. These farms presently total 2,229 acres.

About a two-hour drive north of New York city is where the 1,500-acre Watchtower Farm is located. Several hundred feet back off the road stands a new four-story colonial-style house. This can house a hundred people—the farm family, construction workers, mechanics, and so forth. In the house there is also a cannery, a 20,000-cubic-foot deepfreeze, a dining room that can seat 120 persons, a kitchen, laundry, Kingdom Hall, and other facilities. The farm is equipped with a large root cellar, a modern slaughterhouse and a hog house that uses the latest pig-raising techniques. The poultry houses and the cattle feeding methods are also ultramodern.

On the Society's three farms on a recent date, there were 368 milking cows, 539 beef cattle, 464 hogs, 8,812 poultry. A cheese factory produces 15 tons of cheese a year. And 8 tons of butter are made yearly for the family. A canning factory prepared 37,924 quarts of canned goods and 26,369 quarts of frozen foods last year! There are vineyards, vegetable gardens, and orchards with 435 apple trees, 169 pear trees and 400 grapevines. Some 8,158 quarts of strawberries were picked last year!

This fantastically large operation is managed solely by ministers of Jehovah's witnesses and is operated, not for commercial profit, but to keep the headquarters' staff in Brooklyn well fed. By raising much of its own food and employing various economies, the Society maintains a healthy family at low cost. It enables ministers to devote their life and energies to publishing Bibles, books, booklets and magazines at very small expense to the public so that they can learn of God's kingdom, the only hope of mankind. —Matt. 6:9, 10.

The Watchtower Society's Publishing Plant

Sprawled over four city blocks between the Brooklyn end of the Brooklyn and Manhattan Bridges are printing plants of Jehovah's witnesses. The huge Brooklyn industrial operation employs 819 persons, ranging from skilled printers to office clerks.

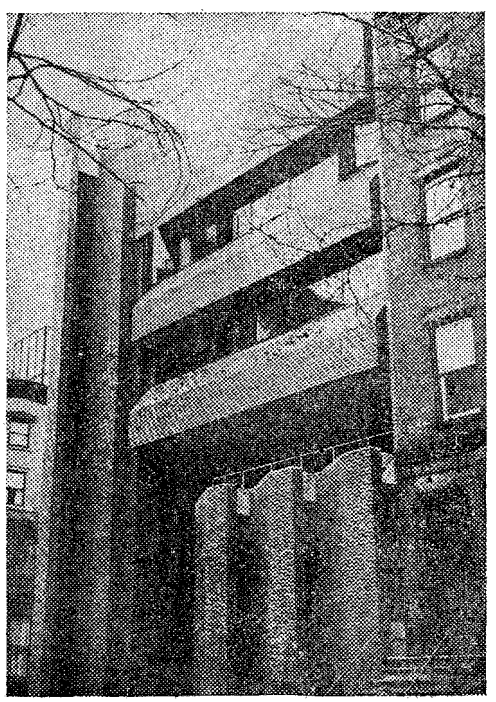
Here are located 22 rotary presses and 23 flatbed and job presses. The largest presses each print 25,000 Bible magazines an hour. They each weigh over fifty tons. They use a five-mile-long, 1,600-pound roll of paper in about forty minutes. Eight freight carloads of paper are used a week; over 10,000 tons per year. Literature is here printed in 146 languages. Some twenty other languages are printed in foreign lands.

Here also are folders and stitchers that can stitch 100,000 thirty-two-page booklets per day. One sees thirty-three linotype machines setting type in haste; a composing, matting and plate department working with the efficiency of a beehive. There are storage areas holding over 5,000 tons of paper, or more than 200 train carloads of 25 tons each!

The bindery is a fascination in itself. It is spread out on three floors, with the latest bookbinding equipment. Here are casemakers, embossers, cutters, trimmers, folding and gluing machines. From one of thirty-three book-sewing machines (each machine averages 2,500 hardbound books a day) the assembling of a book races along at an amazing speed to assemblers, gluers, cutters, rounders, casing-in machines, pressing, drying and packing. On the five production lines 100,000 books a day, with two shifts, can be bound on the average, with a peak of 144,000!

The circulation of the Society's publications eclipses all other religious periodicals. In the religious publishing circles a book that sells more than 25,000 copies breaks into the best-seller ranks. The Watch Tower Society's book *"Let God Be True"* was issued in a first edition of 10,000,000 copies in 30 languages! More than 17,000,000 copies of the 320-page book have been distributed. The Society's recently released book *The Truth That Leads to Eternal Life* in one year's time is in its 15,000,000 edition!

In this Brooklyn plant nearly 15,000,000 copies of the Bible in seven languages have been printed in the last twenty-five years! A complete, hard-cover Bible is printed for only $1. Other hardbound books are placed with the public for as little as 25 cents. Last year more than 12,130,990 Bibles and books were sent to 98 branches to serve the more than 25,000 congregations of Jehovah's witnesses throughout the earth. But in the first eight months of the 1969 fiscal year, more than 17,700,000 Bibles and books have already been printed. This, of course, would not be possible without dedicated, volunteer workers. It becomes obvious that no other people are more interested in printing, distributing and teaching the Word of God than are Jehovah's witnesses.



Modern new addition to Bethel Home recently erected in Brooklyn

The Shipping Department is the very epitome of efficiency. Bible literature totaling 115 languages is stocked, ready to be shipped. On April 7 of this year 37,562 pounds of literature, representing 83,000 books, was shipped to London, England; 43,339 pounds to Rome, Italy, representing 67,000 books; 75,401 pounds went to Manila, Philippine Islands, representing 145,000 books and 310,000 tracts; 24,256 pounds was shipped to Auckland, New Zealand, representing 59,000 books and 10,000 tracts—all of this was shipped out of the Brooklyn plant in one day! And it does not represent all the shipping either. About 54 percent of the literature produced is exported.

The Magazine Department

Of the four large buildings of the Watch Tower Society's Brooklyn publishing plant, Building Number 2 is the home of the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. From here the magazines are processed and mailed. *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* are printed here in thirty languages, sixty-four different magazines being produced every month, or at the rate of two to three each day. Some days over a million copies of these Christian magazines are produced and mailed out.

If that sounds amazing, then consider the other figures of this department: New subscription slips come in at a rate of 8,000 to 10,000 a day. They are checked for legibility, typed on metal stencils and proofread. During the first six months of fiscal year 1969, 96,043,629 magazines were mailed out of the Brooklyn plant! It takes three trailer trucks per day to move this mail, and it weighs over 60,000 pounds. The magazines are mailed to over 200 countries, islands and territories. Direct sacks of mail are prepared for 363 destinations in 44 countries.

Thirty-five different language magazines are mailed in 82 different issues per month. This makes the magazines published and mailed in Brooklyn alone available to over 60 percent of the world's population. Proofreading and translating are done in over 20 countries for magazines mailed from the Brooklyn office. Magazines explaining the Word of God can here be set in any language using Roman characters, also Greek, Hebrew, Russian, Arabic and Armenian. Circulation ranges from 1,200 Armenian magazines per month to English with a circulation of 2,900,000 copies per issue. However, *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* have a combined monthly circulation of 22,700,000 copies!

Some issues that received special distribution, such as the October 8, 1968, *Awake!* and *The Watchtower* of October 15, 1968, in English had a total circulation of 12,180,000. If stacked one atop another they would make a pile 55,000 feet high or over 10 miles! *The Watchtower* is printed in 72 languages and *Awake!* in 26 languages.

There are 2,000,000 zinc address stencils on file. If laid end to end, they would encircle New York city, or some 82 miles! In this department over 300,000 address changes are processed per year. This whole fantastic operation too difficult to describe in words is managed by 135 persons.

The Other Departments

Comparatively speaking, very few people have any idea of the scope of the work that is done at the Brooklyn headquarters. In addition to the operations mentioned, here is a modern carpenter shop where all the worktables, benches, bookcases, and furniture for the Bethel home are made at a great saving. Here is a machine shop that has designed and built wrapping machines and endsheeters. Parts and gears and repairs are made with a saving of tens of thousands of dollars every year in operational expenses, which money can be used directly to facilitate the preaching work. Here also is an electrical shop, a plumbing shop, a sheet-metal shop, a cleaning department involving a large crew. Here Braille is printed for the blind, international conventions are planned and the Word of life is made available to millions.

Here at Bethel every week, eight hours and forty minutes a day, five and a half days a week, work linotypists, pressmen, bindery men, writers, translators, typists, artists, secretaries, mail clerks, men of various nationalities—all of whom are ordained ministers—so that the Kingdom message might reach the public at minimum cost. Said a newsman visiting the plant for the first time: "All this modern technology and wonderful efficiency really jolted me." Perhaps you feel the same way. Many do. A Catholic writer, William J. Whalen, said: "I have never seen young men work harder or more cheerfully at their jobs than the compositors, linotypists, pressmen, bindery, shipping and mailing workers at the Watchtower factory. You find no malingering, no pin-up pictures on the walls, no scraps of paper on the floor."

But as one views this modern printing plant and the dedicated ministers who man it, one cannot help but appreciate that here is an organization that is serious about fulfilling Jesus' prophecy concerning the preaching of the Kingdom message in all the inhabited earth. The Brooklyn Bethel headquarters serves this purpose well.

Main building at Watchtower Farm, where food for Bethel family is produced

Here Are the ASSEMBLY CITIES

Twenty-five principal cities around the world will host the "Peace on Earth" International Assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses. Early in July the assembly opens in North America, and in August it visits five European cities. After several weeks, the assembly resumes in October in cities of the Far East.

Then the assembly moves to Australia, New Zealand, and other islands of the Pacific. Finally it concludes in Mexico City, December 24-28.

Here are the assembly cities, with news and interesting reports from these many parts of the world.

New York City

From July 7 to 13 New Yorkers will be host to tens of thousands of Jehovah's witnesses attending the "Peace on Earth" International Assembly in Yankee Stadium. However, this is no new experience for New Yorkers, since this will be the eighth convention the Witnesses have held in this world-famous sports stadium.

The largest of these was in 1958, when the nearby Polo Grounds was used simultaneously with Yankee Stadium. On that occasion more than a quarter of a million persons heard the feature Bible lecture!

In 1950 there were only 22 congregations of Jehovah's witnesses in all New York city. But now there are 33 Spanish-speaking congregations alone, and 188 congregations all together. For just one special meeting this spring, the annual memorial of Christ's death, well over 40,000 persons crowded into the meeting places of Jehovah's witnesses in New York city.

Atlanta

In 1958 and prior thereto New York city had sufficient facilities to handle an international assembly of Jehovah's witnesses. But no longer is this the case. Thus, simultaneous with the assembly in New York, another one will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, July 6 to 13. Here the new 52,000-seat Atlanta Stadium will accommodate an anticipated 47,000 delegates.

Buffalo

The third city to host the opening of the "Peace on Earth" International Assembly is Buffalo, New York. From July 6 to 13 it is expected that about 40,000 delegates will be enjoying exactly the same program of Bible instruction at the War Memorial Stadium in Buffalo as is being heard in New York city and Atlanta.

Buffalo's eight congregations of Jehovah's witnesses are looking forward this summer to hosting by far the largest assembly of Christian people ever held in that city.

Pomona

From July 13 to 20 the "Peace on Earth" International Assembly moves to three cities in the western United States and Canada. The one in Pomona, California, will be held in the Spanish language.

For Spanish-speaking persons in other parts of the country, there will be Spanish programs in conjunction with the assemblies in New York city, Atlanta and Chicago.

Los Angeles

While the Pomona Spanish Assembly is in progress, more than 60,000 English-speaking delegates are expected to gather in Los Angeles for a seven-day "Peace on Earth" International Assembly (July 14-20). Although this will be the first time for the Witnesses to meet in beautiful Dodger Stadium, Los Angeles has frequently been the host to assemblies of Jehovah's witnesses. In 1963, over 118,000 persons attended the international assembly in the famous Rose Bowl in nearby Pasadena.

The work of Jehovah's witnesses has expanded rapidly in this area. In 1955 there were 33 congregations and 4,067 Witnesses in the city of Los Angeles, but now there are 89 congregations and 8,862 Witnesses!

Vancouver

Jehovah's witnesses in Vancouver, Canada, look forward to welcoming upward of 40,000 delegates for the international assembly in their city July 13 to 20.

What a contrast this assembly will be to the one held there by Jehovah's witnesses back in 1912, when only about sixty persons attended. Today there are forty congregations of Jehovah's witnesses in the city—a total of 3,600 active ministers!

Kansas City

Delegates coming to the international assembly in Kansas City, Missouri, July 18 to 25, will have the spacious facilities of the 45,500-seat Municipal Stadium. Jehovah's witnesses used this stadium back in 1960 before it was enlarged—19,300 then attended.

Chicago

The final "Peace on Earth" International Assembly in the United States opens in Chicago's White Sox Park July 21, and concludes the following Sunday, July 27.

In the mid-1930's there was only one congregation of Jehovah's witnesses for all Chicago and much of the suburbs. But by 1955 the number of congregations in the city alone had grown to 23. And now there are 63 congregations and 5,525 Witnesses in Chicago!

EUROPEAN CITIES

LONDON

Britain for centuries stood as a stronghold for Bible lovers. Names like William Tyndale and Miles Coverdale spring to mind as devoted men who pioneered the printing and distribution of the Bible in earlier years. But this reverence for God's Word has of late seen a sharp decline.

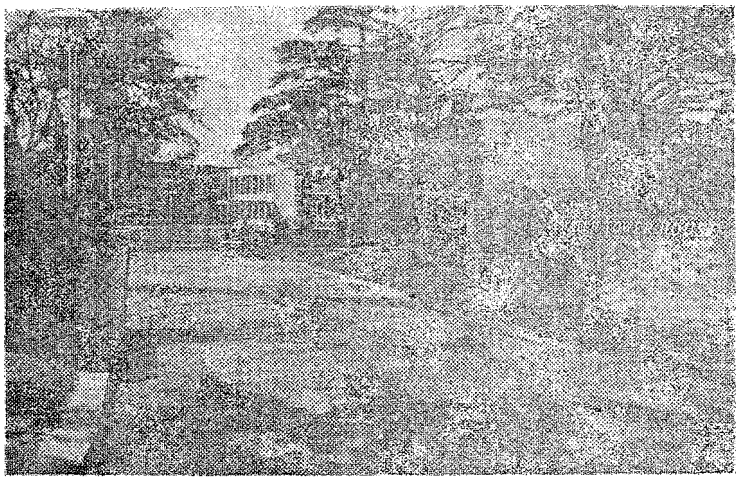
The man in the street in London today gives little evidence of concern for God or the Bible. He is much more interested in the nation's balance of payments and in how much money he takes home than he is in worshiping God. But what is so remarkable is that concurrent with this religious decadence, the Christian ministry of Jehovah's witnesses in Britain has raced ahead by leaps and bounds, till now they have 55,278 active ministers. That is a 46-percent increase over ten years ago, and ten times as many Witnesses as there were thirty years ago!

The Watch Tower Society's branch in Britain is located at Mill Hill in northwest London. It is called Watch Tower House. This spacious, modern-looking building is located on a quiet, tree-studded nineteen acres of land. Expansion has come so rapidly that, though in 1965 an extension of the facilities was built, now provisions are being made for further expansion.

The Society's printing factory in England prints the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines in English, Croatian, Italian, Malagasy and Swahili, while other literature is printed in Yoruba, Efik and Twi.

But the British branch sends out more than just literature. It has also sent out a great number of Christian missionaries. Many Witnesses from Britain have, over the years, had the privilege and joy of going to every corner of the globe, spreading the good news of God's now-established kingdom. Upward of 300 have gone through the Gilead missionary school in New York and then on to their assignments in more than fifty lands. What blessings this has brought them! And what a joy many of these will have when returning to the grand assembly at Wembley Stadium!

Yes, the "Peace on Earth" International Assembly in London opens in the famous Wembley Stadium, Tuesday, July 29, and closes Sunday, August 3. In 1951 Jehovah's witnesses from forty nations met here, and it was a joy to see a peak of 36,315 present at the principal lecture. However, twice that number are expected for this year's assembly.



British office of the Watch Tower Society

PARIS

In France the Catholic church is facing the worst crisis of her existence. Although France has been called "the oldest daughter of the Church," and 80 percent of the population are still professed Catholics, few attend church with any regularity anymore. The average Frenchman criticizes the church because of its riches and its sharing in worldly conflicts.

Nevertheless, at the same time, Jehovah's witnesses have been enjoying phenomenal growth. In 1939 there were a thousand Witnesses, in 1957 over 10,000, but now there are nearly 30,000 Kingdom preachers! The work of Jehovah's witnesses is directed from a five-story building situated in Boulogne-Billancourt, which is on the fringe of Paris.

The "Peace on Earth" International Assembly opens in Paris, France, August 5, and runs for six days. 'Colombes Stadium, situated in the suburbs about nine miles northwest of Paris, will be the assembly site. It is the largest stadium in France, accommodating about 60,000 persons. From August 5 to 10 Jehovah's witnesses expect to assemble here to worship God and enjoy Christian association with friends from many lands.

COPENHAGEN

The general attitude in Denmark is one of a lack of interest in religion. People are generally unwilling to discuss religion with a stranger. They often say, "I am not interested in religion." "I don't believe in discussing reli-

gion at the door." "I have my own ideas and I keep them to myself." "I don't believe in the Bible." The religion in Denmark is officially the Lutheran Evangelical Church, but only about 2 to 3 percent attend church.

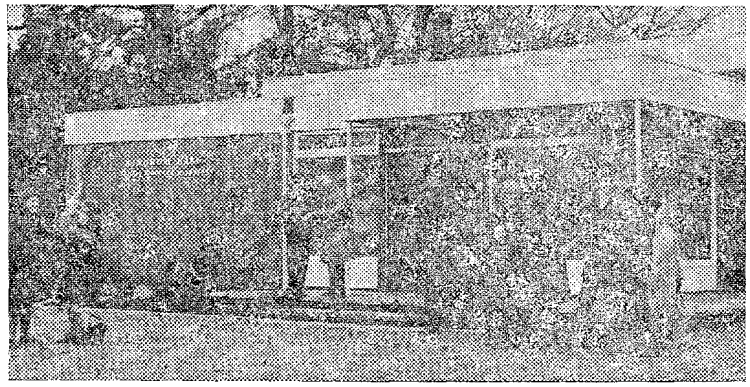
But attendance at Copenhagen's six-day "Peace on Earth" International Assembly is expected to be about 40,000! It will run concurrently with the one in Paris (August 5-10). It will be held at Idraetspark (Sports Park) and the adjacent Osterbro Stadium, which are located not far from the center of the city. Besides coming from all over Denmark, many thousands of delegates will be traveling to Copenhagen from Finland, Sweden, Norway, and other countries. Sessions will be presented in Norwegian, Swedish, Finnish, Danish and English.

The work of Jehovah's witnesses has been established in Denmark for a long time. The first president of the Watch Tower Society, Charles Taze Russell, visited Denmark in 1891, and soon afterward Witnesses began to spread Bible literature in the country. In 1903 the Danish edition of *The Watchtower* began to be published regularly. Then in 1928 the magazine now called *Awake!* began to be published in Danish. Presently both magazines have a printing of 70,000 of each issue, twice a month.

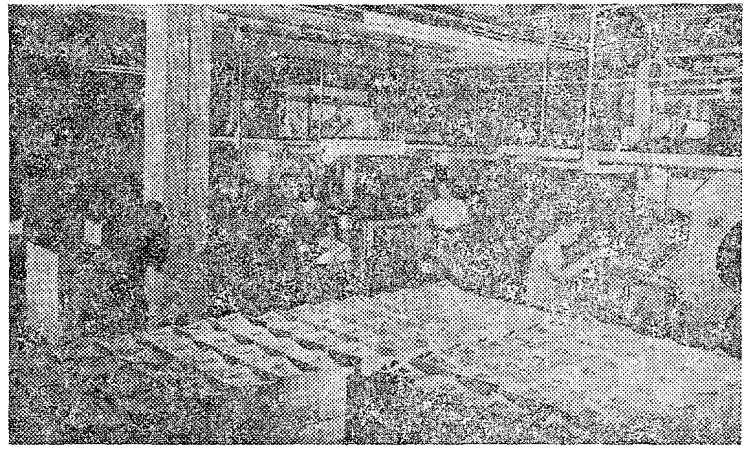
By 1939, when the country was occupied by the Nazis, Denmark had 1,000 Witnesses. The German decision to win Denmark as a "model" occupied country resulted in their allowing Danes considerable freedom. Thus the work of Jehovah's witnesses was not banned and, with a certain amount of discretion, it was possible to continue with meetings and preaching all during the war.

By the first year following World War II there were 3,000 Witnesses in Denmark. Within ten years the number had grown to 9,000. The growth to a little over 11,300 has been slower since then. But now, one out of every 428 persons in the country is a Christian witness of Jehovah.

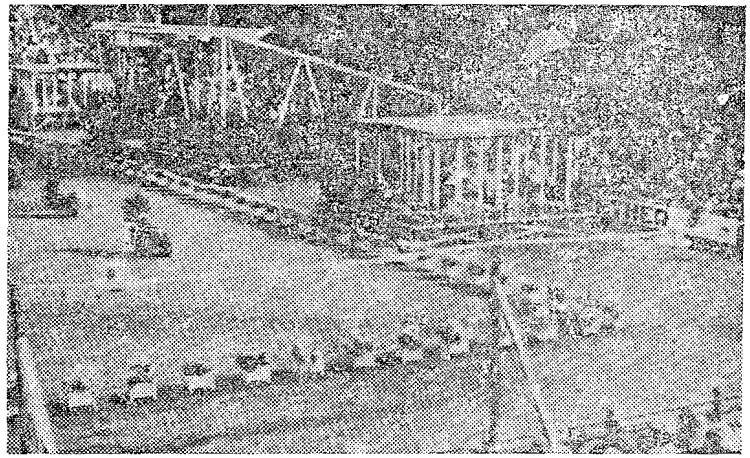
By 1955 it was deemed advisable to build a branch office with a printery, so that magazines and other preaching material could be produced in Denmark. Land was purchased in Virum, at the northern outskirts



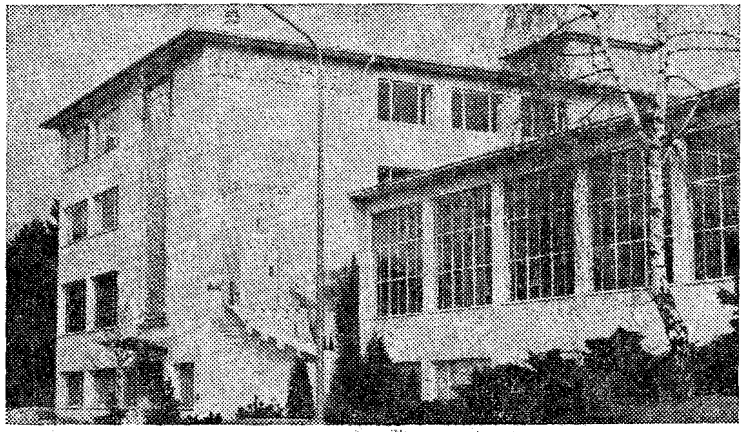
Where a congregation of Witnesses meets in England; there are 25,409 congregations world wide



Millions of pieces of Bible literature are printed in eight languages in Watch Tower's London plant



The assembly program in Copenhagen in 1961 was presented simultaneously from five speakers' platforms in five languages



Watch Tower Society's branch office and printery in Germany

of Copenhagen, and in 1957 the building was finished. Since then there have been printed and distributed from this factory many millions of magazines, tracts and booklets.

Legal action to hinder the preaching work has resulted in several cases being taken before the Danish Supreme Court. As a result of one decision, it is now illegal to accept contributions for literature at the time of presentation. This means that orders must be taken for later delivery of literature. To counteract this decision, the Witnesses decided to support economically the work of magazine distribution, and this has resulted in a greater public witness in Denmark than ever before.

NUREMBERG

When Hitler came to power in Germany, Jehovah's witnesses were hunted down like wild animals, until there were more than 10,000 of them in concentration camps. To get Jehovah's witnesses to renounce their faith, some Witnesses were bound and hung for hours on a stake or beaten with steel rods. In winter weather cold water was splashed over them. Often they were denied food and warm clothing.

In one instance more than 40,000 prisoners in the infamous Sachsenhausen concentration camp had to gather at the parade ground to witness the execution of one of Jehovah's witnesses who had refused to take weapons and fight against his fellowman. Also the witnesses of Jehovah who were confined in this camp had to take their place directly in front of the executional area and from close range see their Christian brother shot down. Among them was the fleshly brother of the one executed.

Afterward the remaining prisoners were allowed to leave the grounds, whereas Jehovah's witnesses had to remain. The officials were convinced that the Witnesses' determination to continue serving Jehovah would be broken. In answer to the question if they wanted to continue being witnesses for Jehovah, all of them answered "Yes!" to the consternation of their Nazi taskmasters. This resulted in indescribable tortures that lasted for hours. Finally, their enemies gave up.

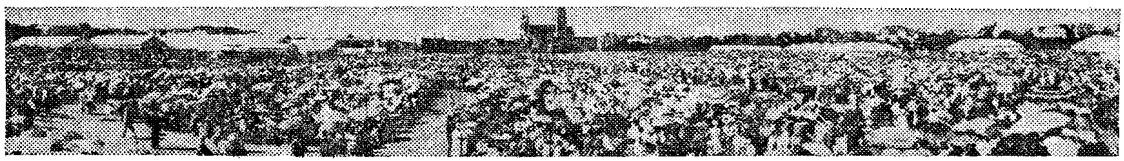
Shortly after Jehovah's witnesses came out of the concentration camps following World War II, they looked for a place to have an assembly. To their surprise they were directed to Nuremberg's *Parteigelaende* (party grounds), also called Zeppelinwiese. This is the parade grounds where Hitler would call his faithful annually for a tremendous display of propaganda. This is where the so-called "Nuremberg laws" were enacted that meant execution for millions of Jews.

The assembly was planned for September 28 and 29, 1946. Running parallel with the assembly preparations was the famous trial that went down in history as the *Kriegsverbrecher-Prozess* (Nuremberg Trial). The court decision was to be announced on September 23.

Later it was decided to extend the assembly one more day, so all congregations of Jehovah's witnesses were informed that Monday, September 30, would be the last day of the assembly. Shortly after this announcement was made to Jehovah's witnesses, it was announced to the entire world that pronouncement of judgment at the Nuremberg Trials was postponed until September 30.

Thus, the peculiar situation arose that at the very hour when the death sentences were being pronounced upon those who wanted to silence Jehovah's witnesses, the public lecture of Jehovah's witnesses was being given here at Hitler's former parade grounds! There were 6,300 in attendance.

Since that time Jehovah's witnesses have held much larger assemblies on these very same grounds. But the largest may be this summer, August 10 to 17. About 120,000 delegates are expected to be in attendance. Among these will be many from other countries. Therefore, sessions in various languages will be arranged, including German, Dutch, Greek, Croatian, Serbian and Turkish.



107,164 persons from 35 lands attended 1963 assembly of Jehovah's witnesses in Munich

Especially significant is the fact that some of those who were present at the first assembly held in Nuremberg, September 28 to 30, 1946, will be present this summer.

Now there are over 81,000 Witnesses in West Germany alone, and 1,097 congregations.

The large printing plant and bindery of Jehovah's witnesses in Wiesbaden, Germany, supplies the zealous German Witnesses with millions of books and magazines each month for use in the ministry. The book bindery has a capacity of more than 10,000 books a day. And for just one special issue of *Awake!*, the April 8, 1969, issue, well over seven million copies were printed and mailed out!

ROME

From only about 100 active ministers in 1946, Jehovah's witnesses in Italy have grown to over 14,000 preachers of God's kingdom in 1969. Back in 1946, when they began in an organized way the house-to-house ministry in Italy, Jehovah's witnesses were not welcomed in many places. They were stoned and assaulted by violent mobs stirred up by the local clergy. Often they were reported to the authorities, and falsely accused and misrepresented. However, upper courts, in hundreds of court proceedings, legally confirmed the right of Jehovah's witnesses to declare publicly their religious faith both by word of mouth and by printed matter. So now the preaching work of Jehovah's witnesses is carried on for the most part without interference.

The predominant religion in Italy, of course, is Roman Catholic. It is also the State religion. During the past sixteen centuries it has permeated every aspect of the life of the people. But, as admitted by Catholics themselves, the Catholic people have remained in religious ignorance.

Now there is obviously a big change near. Many of the Catholic clergy in Italy, as elsewhere in the world, are in open rebellion against their church. As a result, Italians are asking where religion is heading. This has opened many fine opportunities for Jehovah's witnesses to answer this question from the Bible and to point people to God's kingdom.

The "Peace on Earth" International Assembly in Rome will be held at the same time as the one in Nuremberg—August 10 to 17. The assembly site is the Palazzo dello Sport and Palazzo dei Congressi, two huge buildings that lie about a half mile from each other. Sessions in the Spanish language will be held at the Palazzo dei Congressi, August 13 to 17.

AROUND THE PACIFIC

SEOUL

After an intermission of eight weeks, the "Peace on Earth" International Assembly resumes in Seoul, Korea, October 12 to 16. Here several hundred foreign delegates are expected to join some 10,000 Korean Witnesses and their friends in assembly at Changchoong Gymnasium. This is the largest covered stadium in the city.

Korean Witness offers Bible literature

In the twenty years since the first missionary graduates of the Watchtower Bible School of Gilead arrived in Korea, the ministry of Jehovah's witnesses has expanded tremendously. In 1949 there was just one congregation, with sixteen Witnesses preaching. In 1952, while the Korean War was still raging, this number had grown to 192. By 1959 there were nearly 3,500. But now there are well over 9,400 Witnesses and 220 congregations! In Seoul itself there are forty-four congregations and about 3,000 Witnesses.

A factor in the rapid growth of Jehovah's witnesses is the lack of a national religion that is peculiar to Korea. There is a Buddhist community in Korea, but it is largely dormant. The churches of Christendom make up the second-largest religious group, if all the sects are listed together. However, at least 80 percent of Korea's 30 million people do not profess any organized religion. Instead, they follow certain customs that center around ancestor worship, which is not considered a religion in an organized sense. Koreans have a respect for things religious and, even though professed Christians are a small minority, the Bible has enjoyed a very wide distribution in Korea. Thus, Jehovah's witnesses find many listening ears when they visit the people's homes.

TOKYO

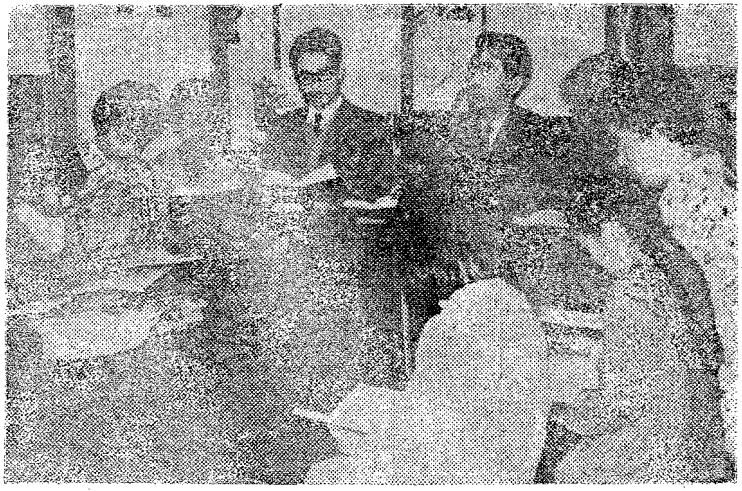
The present mood in Japan is reflected by recent activity in front of the Watch Tower Society's modern, six-story branch building. Shortly before the 1964

Olympics in Tokyo, the city put down a fine paved sidewalk there. But this spring workmen dug it all up again. They carted away the paving stones, replacing them with an asphalt sidewalk. Why?

It is because Japan's oldest university, Keio, is on a neighboring block. Japan's universities are now in tumult, and this year's riots have shown that paving stones are among the most destructive weapons in the students' arsenal. The city is now moving to double the size of Tokyo's police force by 1970. People in Japan are beginning to worry seriously about what is in store in 1970 and thereafter.

Where do the traditional religions stand as the situation grows more tense? Buddhism is about as lifeless as Buddha's image. Both Buddhism and Shintoism failed the people in World War II, and they have never made any real comeback. Many young people describe themselves as atheists.

The deadness of traditional religion has no doubt contributed to the rise of the aggressive new religion, Soka Gakkai, whose political arm, the Komeito, is now the third-largest party in the Japanese Diet. Soka Gakkai, contemptuous of all other religions and ideologies, aims to become the dominant political power during the 1970's. Then, predict many, woe betide any who believe differently!



World wide, Jehovah's witnesses meet for regular Bible discussions—as here in Japan

It is now twenty years since the first missionaries from the Watchtower Bible School of Gilead arrived in Japan. The first two congregations of Jehovah's witnesses established were in Tokyo and in Kobe. Now there are 25 congregations in Tokyo, eight in Kobe and 189 in all of Japan. The number of Witnesses in Japan has increased now for twenty months in a row, reaching a new peak of 6,849 in March.

At a series of eighteen small assemblies held recently in Japan and Okinawa, there was a combined peak attendance of 9,133. Thus, more than 10,000 persons, including several hundred visitors from overseas, are expected for the international gathering this fall. This "Peace on Earth" assembly will be held in Tokyo, October 14 to 19. The assembly location will be the Tokyo Korakuen Cycling Stadium. This is alongside the lovely Japanese garden called "Korakuen." Though damaged by bombs during World War II, the garden retains much of its 300-year-old beauty.

At weekly meetings training is provided for all Witnesses in effective methods of interesting others in Bible message

TAIPEI

Taiwan is a 240-mile-long, 90-mile-wide island about 100 miles from the Chinese mainland. Its population is an interesting mixture of aboriginal tribes, Taiwanese and mainlanders. Mainlanders are persons who came here from China in 1949 when the Nationalist government evacuated from the mainland. Taiwan is "home" to the Taiwanese, who, although of mainland Chinese ancestry, have lived here for generations. But it is not "home" to the *wai sheng jen* ("people from outside the province") as the true mainlanders are called.

Although many mainlanders

have been living in Taiwan for twenty years, they view their stay as only temporary, awaiting the day to retake the mainland. Taiwan to them is important as the seat of the Nationalist government and base of operations for recapturing the mainland. This strong feeling and desire permeates the atmosphere of Taiwan. One does not talk long on world conditions without realizing that to the Chinese here the most important thing in the world is to drive out the Communists and reoccupy their homeland.

Among Taiwan's some 13 million inhabitants there are a little more than 1,000 of Jehovah's witnesses. About 85 percent of the Witnesses work among the aboriginal tribes, principally the Amis. These people live on the beautiful agricultural valley plain on the east coast. The remaining 15 percent of the Witnesses preach among the Chinese and Taiwanese population on the more industrialized west coast.

Various factors affect the response to the Bible message. The major ones are Confucius' philosophy, the political philosophy of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, founder of the Republic, and Buddhism, the predominant religion here. The people study these philosophies in school and more or less pattern their own lives and thinking accordingly.

For instance, Confucius taught the system called "filial piety." This means giving absolute obedience and respect to older ones and those in all positions of authority. Thus a word from the senior one in the family or from one in authority is the law and must be given absolute obedience. This, to be sure, has produced a refreshing circumstance, for Taiwan is not troubled with violent student demonstrations and crippling strikes as are many other nations. On the other hand, some hesitate to accept the Bible message because of "filial piety."

Over fifty-eight years ago Dr. Sun Yat-sen set forth the "Three Principles of the People," and thus the Republic of China was born. The three principles are nationalism, national livelihood, and democracy. These are taught throughout the school system. Thus patriotism and love for country are strong among the Nationalist Chinese.

Encouraging an idol maker to learn what the Bible teaches

Buddhism and ancestor worship are widely practiced among the older generation. However, many of the younger ones openly say they do not believe the mysticism, superstition and rituals associated with it. Nevertheless, they often follow along out of respect for their parents. Commonly older ones object to younger ones' studying the Bible, saying: "When I die you will not worship me; you will forget me."

Witness in Tokyo who is full-time Bible teacher explains God's kingdom to Japanese householder

To care for expansion of the preaching work in this area, the Watch Tower Society has begun construction of a new branch office and missionary home in Taipei, a city of some one and a half million persons. It is scheduled for completion in September 1969, some weeks before the international assembly in Taipei.

On Saturday, October 18, while the assembly is still in progress in Tokyo, the "Peace on Earth" International Assembly begins in Taiwan. The assembly here is four days, concluding Tuesday, October 21.

HONG KONG

A strip of Chinese mainland some twenty miles wide and Hong Kong Island make up the tiny British colony of Hong Kong. There is no shortage here of people to whom to preach. Most of Hong Kong's four million inhabitants are crammed into an area of twenty-five square miles. This makes it the most densely populated of all the world's big cities. According to a town-planning expert, Hong Kong is now building to densities twenty times as high as those allowed in London!

Today Hong Kong is a very prosperous place. As one walks down Kowloon's Nathan Road one sees it teeming with people. They are well dressed and most

of them in Western-style clothing. The shops are full of every household convenience, which can be purchased at reasonable prices and on the time-payment plan. The restaurants and teahouses are full. People, whether rich or poor, are seeking to acquire more.

Over 200 of Jehovah's witnesses are now preaching the good news of God's kingdom in this crowded colony. They are all looking forward with keen anticipation to the four-day "Peace on Earth" International Assembly in Hong Kong's City Hall Theater October 18 to 21. Especially are they happy about the prospects of welcoming several hundred visitors from other lands to this assembly.

The house-to-house ministry of the Witnesses affords opportunity to meet the people here and learn something of their thinking and way of life. On a typical call an elderly Chinese woman appears. She is minding the house and caring for the young children, whose parents have both gone out to work. No, she does not want to listen to the minister, because she worships her own family gods and she is not going to make any changes. She will not even accept a Bible tract because she cannot read. There are so many persons like her.

At another door a housewife greets the minister in a very friendly manner. But on learning the purpose of his visit she quickly replies, "*Mo see garn.*" She has no time to listen. Why is she so busy? It does not take her much time to tidy up her small home, consisting of just one room approximately fourteen feet by fourteen feet. Her most time-consuming activity is purchasing food and preparing the meal.

The average Chinese housewife goes to market twice a day to get fresh meat, fish and vegetables. It takes the entire morning to buy and prepare the food. Then when the noon meal is over, it is time to think about the evening meal. This way of life is typical of the Chinese housewife.

Seldom are men met in the house-to-house ministry, for they are at work, frequently working seven days a week. It is customary to meet some men on Sunday, but most of them are home only on special holidays such as Chinese New Year. That is why Jehovah's witnesses here arrange for special activity on these holidays so they can meet more men and introduce the Kingdom message to them.

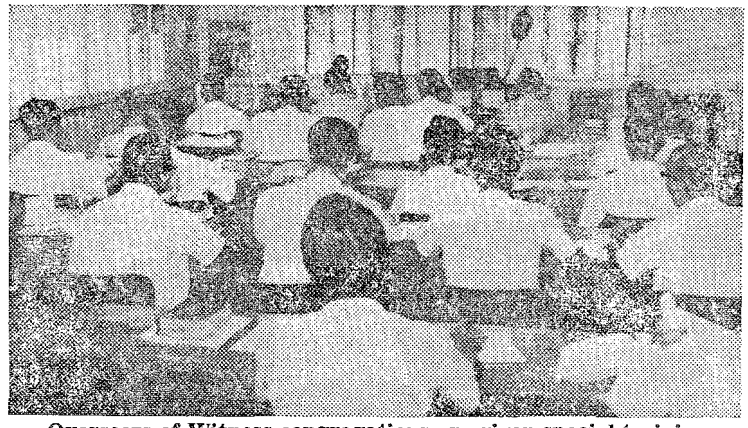
Aiding an ancestor-worshiping Buddhist to learn Bible truth

Basically people in Hong Kong are materialistically inclined. They place highest values on money and material possessions. Nevertheless, there are some who have come to appreciate that the true worship of Jehovah God is also vital. Many of these are now associating with one of the eight congregations of Jehovah's witnesses in Hong Kong.—Matt. 4:4.

The Watch Tower Society operates three missionary homes in Hong Kong. One of these homes also serves as the branch office that has oversight of the preaching work in Hong Kong and Macao, and the branch takes care of the translation and proofreading of the Chinese publications. This branch now occupies the entire top floor of a large building and has comfortable accommodations for twelve missionaries.

MANILA

A visitor to Manila following World War II reported: "All about us we could see the destruction that had been caused by shells and bombs. . . . Blocks and blocks of the city that had been homes of the people were



Overseers of Witness congregations are given special training

now cleared-off open country; it was truly much worse than anything we had seen in Europe."

As the rebuilding to erase Manila's war damage got under way, another marvelous transformation also was beginning. By the time the war struck the Philippines in 1941, there were 373 of Jehovah's witnesses here. Since the war disrupted communications, much contact was lost among these Christians. So imagine their surprise and joy when they grouped together again after the war and found that their numbers had swelled to 2,000! In 1947, while the city was still reeling from the effects of the war, the reorganization of these Witnesses was put into high gear by the visit of the Watch Tower Society's president.

There were just two congregations of Jehovah's witnesses in Manila at that time. Now these two have multiplied to forty-one, and more than 3,000 Witnesses are associated with these congregations. Throughout the entire archipelago (the Philippines has 7,103 islands, but eleven of them comprise 90 percent of the total land area) there are now 1,253 congregations. These help over 46,000 Witnesses preach the "good news of the kingdom" in Manila as well as in every one of the Republic's sixty-five provinces. What a contrast to conditions twenty-two years ago! —Matt. 24:14.

Visiting people here with the Kingdom message is a pleasure, since Filipinos invariably show hospitality to visitors. They love to talk, especially to strangers, and so they quickly learn new things and broaden their outlook. Also, most of them fear the Creator and have a respect for God's Word.

There are eighty-seven known tongues used in the Philippines, although only nine of these are generally referred to as languages, the rest being dialects. The Watch Tower Society has published bound books in all nine languages, publishes the *Watchtower* magazine regularly in eight (*Tagalog, Iloko, Cebuano, Hiligaynon, Bicol, Pangasinan, Pampango* and *Samar-Leyte*) and the *Awake!* magazine in four. While language does pose a problem, the fact that English is spoken by 15 million out of 37 million Filipinos eases the situation considerably.

The big thing on the minds of the Witnesses here in the Philippines is the "Peace on Earth" International Assembly, October 22 to 26, and how many will attend. At a series of smaller conventions ending early in 1969 a total of over 57,000 were in attendance. Arrangements are being made for three distinct programs at the assembly, in the three main languages of the Philippines—Tagalog, Iloko and Cebuano. In addition, it is hoped to have summaries of the main assembly parts in other languages during the mornings so that all will get the benefit of the spiritual food. The assembly will be held at the Rizal Memorial Stadium.

Respected elders of Papuan village show interest in "The Watchtower"

PORT MORESBY

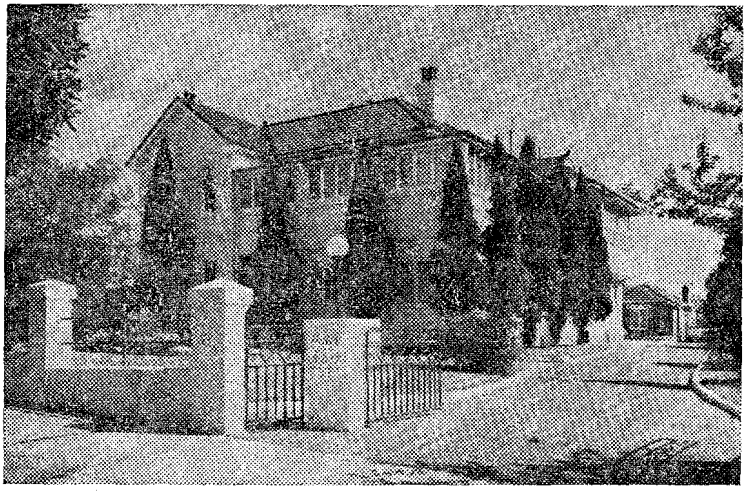
To the south and east of the Philippine Islands, and just above Australia, is a large island that is divided into three countries—New Irian (also called Netherlands New Guinea), New Guinea and Papua. Here in Papua, in its largest town, Port Moresby, the "Peace on Earth" International Assembly will be held October 24 to 27.

The Watch Tower Society's branch in Port Moresby cares for the preaching work in a string of islands, including New Britain, Solomon Islands and Manus Island. This makes up a territory of almost a million and a half square miles. Since the preaching work began here in 1951 good progress has been made. By 1961 the number of Witnesses had risen from two to 762, and now, in 1969, a new peak of 1,309 has been reached!

The people here present a tremendous challenge to those preaching the Kingdom message. They are divided into different groups having more than 700 languages! In addition, nearly 75 percent of the population of two and a half million are illiterate. Already more than 325 of the Witnesses have been taught to read and write through a special congregational instruction program.

A further challenge is found in the rugged nature of the country. In one portion of the island, mountain ranges average about 10,000 feet, with other peaks reaching 15,000 feet. The many small valleys in these mountains have kept hidden small pockets of population that are just now being brought into contact with the outside world. In one area the Witnesses regularly paddle their canoes for three hours and then walk for two hours to reach territory assigned to them for preaching.

One interested person from the wild Kukukuku country paddles



Branch office of Watch Tower Society in Australia

his canoe for six hours downriver and then walks for an hour and a half in order to attend congregational meetings. He arrives in time for the service meeting and ministry school Saturday night, stays for the *Watchtower* study Sunday, and then makes the long trip back home on Monday. Nothing is too much trouble for those who truly love Jehovah God and his Word and desire to meet with fellow Christians.

Most of the people here live in fear of demon gods. But now, under the influence of Bible truth, many are breaking free. One who has done so is a former witch doctor. He brought all his equipment of witchcraft and had a mature Witness dump it into the sea. (Acts 19:19) He is looking forward to meeting many of the delegates from other countries who will be attending the Port Moresby assembly. The assembly site is set in the Papuan bush, with all buildings made from local materials. What grand rejoicing there will be when the hundreds of Witnesses in this area gather for their first international assembly!

MELBOURNE

Australia has been called a country of "miles and miles of nothing but miles and miles." Indeed, it is nearly the size of the United States, but its meager 12 million population is less than that of New York city and surrounding communities. Australia's five largest cities have nearly 60 percent of the country's people! The major population pockets are along the coast, while the interior of the continent is mostly uninhabited. From October 26 to 31 Australia's second-largest city, Melbourne, will host the "Peace on Earth" International Assembly.

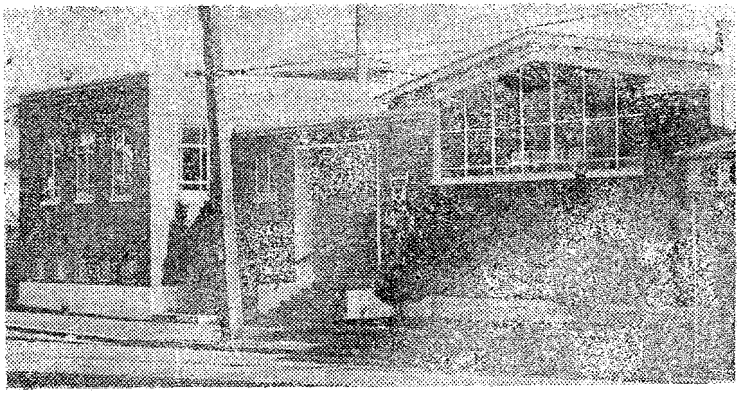
Back in 1904 the Watch Tower Society's first president, Charles Taze Russell, sent a representative who opened a branch office in Melbourne. In 1929 the branch was moved to a location in Sydney, where it continues until today.

In 1930 there were thirty congregations of Jehovah's witnesses in Australia, with 340 Kingdom preachers. However, the close of the 1930's saw 1,800 Witnesses proclaiming the Kingdom message. In those days the Australian branch had oversight of the preaching work in China, Indonesia, Burma, Thailand, Malaya, Singapore, the South Pacific islands and New Zealand. Now most of these places have their own branches.

During World War II opposers falsely alleged that the Society's five radio stations were broadcasting messages to the enemy. Thus, the preaching work was banned and the branch office placed under guard. However, on June 14, 1943, Jehovah's witnesses were exonerated, the Australian High Court ruling that they were not "engaged in any seditious enterprise." By 1943, instead of only 1,800 Witnesses, there were 3,817, a 112-percent increase during those difficult times! By 1955 the number had doubled to over 7,600 Witnesses, and now there are nearly 20,000 active Kingdom preachers in Australia.

For the international assembly October 26 to 31 at the Melbourne Showgrounds more than 21,000 persons are expected. One congregation some 2,300 miles from Melbourne has seventy-six Witnesses, but 138 from there are coming to the assembly. Another congregation of twenty-three Witnesses has fifty coming. The zeal of the Witnesses is

Traveling minister of Jehovah's witnesses stops for water before crossing Nullarbor Plain to Western Australia



Kingdom Hall and branch office in Auckland

seen by the fact that some congregations, such as Darwin and Alice Springs, travel 3,000 miles twice a year to attend local circuit assemblies. For some of these Witnesses it will be over a 3,000-mile trip one way to Melbourne.

Preaching in the isolated regions of Australia takes a real pioneer spirit. It involves driving fifty to eighty miles between stations (ranches) in blistering heat over inland seas of red dust. Each station is a community in itself, some of which have their own school. The station owner is first contacted and the message presented. Approval is usually given to speak to residents and aboriginal natives. At times upward of 100 or more gather together to listen. In this way the Kingdom message is reaching into the remote regions of the vast Australian continent.

AUCKLAND

Due east from Melbourne, across more than a thousand miles of the Pacific Ocean, is Auckland, New Zealand. Here at the Auckland Trotting Club's racecourse, with its closed-in stands and comfortable, upholstered seating, the "Peace on Earth" International Assembly will resume November 4 to 9.

At the close of World War II there was only one congregation of less than a hundred of Jehovah's witnesses in Auckland. But today there are thirteen congregations and some 1,200 Witnesses! Six modern Kingdom Halls have been built in the city, and five more are now under construction. When Jehovah's witnesses and interested persons came together to observe the memorial of Christ's death on April 1, 1969, the Kingdom Halls in Auckland were crowded with a total of 2,432 persons.

Among those who have accepted the Kingdom message here are hundreds from the native Maori population. Of the new Bible-study aid *The Truth That Leads to Eternal Life* an elderly Maori lady recently said: "I can't go to bed without it, for I read it before going to sleep and when I open my eyes in the morning and during the day. . . . It has taught me how to pray to God and be heard by him. Yes, my God is Jehovah now."

A number of Maoris even serve as presiding ministers in New Zealand and others have left the country to receive missionary training at the Watchtower Society's Bible School of Gilead. It is a joy to anticipate the return of such ones to this international assembly. Hearing reports of their experiences in other lands will be a highlight of the assembly program.

SUVA

Scattered like tiny stepping-stones across the vast sweep of the Pacific Ocean lie the enchanting isles of the South Pacific. Tiny dots, almost lost in the twenty million square miles of restless ocean, they seem like beautiful offspring of the surging sea. And, indeed, this is just what many of them are, for they have been built of the coral of sea creatures.

It is here that the Watch Tower Society has its Fiji branch. It administers the preaching work in ten separate territories, including the islands of Fiji, Niue, New Caledonia, Tonga, Samoa, and others. Had you come here a hundred years ago you would have heard these islands called by the names Cannibal, Savage, Loyalty, Friendly and Navigator.

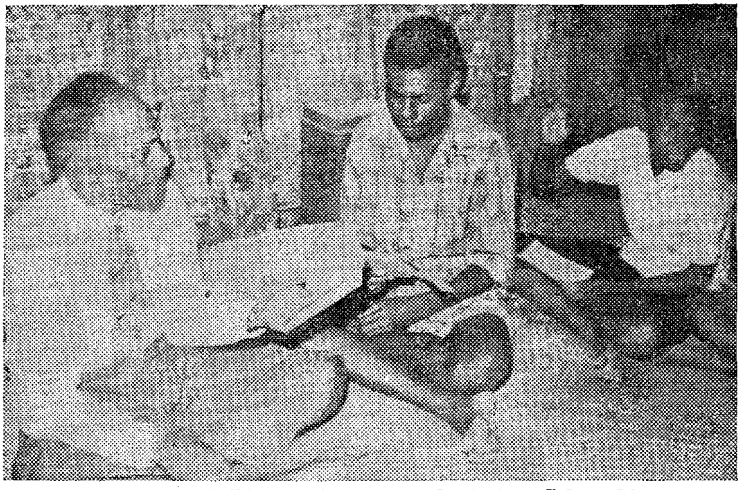
The different governments in this area use nine different currencies. And the people speak thirteen different major languages. Thus at assemblies of Jehovah's witnesses there may be sessions in English, French, Fijian, Samoan, Tahitian and Tongan, even though there may be only 300 in attendance. Here in the small town of Suva, Fiji, the "Peace on Earth" International Assembly will be held November 9 to 12.

Although there were a few Witnesses in Fiji prior to World War II, the war interrupted communications, and organized preaching activities ceased. In 1947 the Watch Tower Society sent the first two missionaries here. Then a few years later Jehovah's witnesses from Australia and other countries moved to these islands to assist with the preaching work. Thus, the number of Witnesses has increased from nine in 1947 to nearly 800 today!

This year a new branch building and missionary home has been built in Suva. It is a three-story structure that is set attractively among trees and gardens, and has a fine view of the beautiful harbor.

The ministry is carried on somewhat differently in these islands than it is in other places. In Samoa, for example, a minister may not find any doors at which to knock. In fact, he would not even see any walls to the village houses. The beehive-domed huts have plaited coconut-leaf blinds instead of walls and these are generally raised throughout the day. Thus it is easy to see if anyone is home.

As the minister approaches the home he pauses respectfully and waits for a sign of welcome. There it is. A girl is spreading a sitting mat inside. In he goes



Free home Bible studies are conducted by Jehovah's witnesses in all parts of the earth

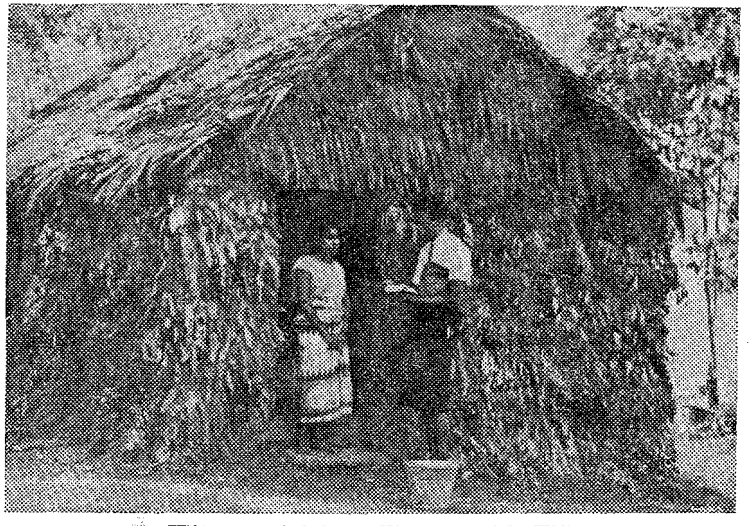
without a word, removing his shoes before entering. Taking her time, the householder will now look up from what she is doing and say, "You have indeed come, honored sir." Then she will proceed in an eloquent vein, thanking him for calling at her home. His reply should also be at length, thanking her for her kindness in inviting him in, asking about her health and that of her family, and so on. After this, he can go ahead with his sermon.

In Fiji, as in most of the islands, most houses do not have walls. So here the minister appears at the entrance, and, after removing his shoes, he steps right in and sits down on the flax mat on the floor. It is bad etiquette to remain standing in the presence of someone seated. That is why if someone comes to the house to deliver a message he usually squats at the doorway.

These island people are truly hospitable, and many are responding to the Kingdom message. Some have made marvelous changes to conform their lives to Bible principles. For example, one person was notorious in his town as a street brawler and was sometimes jailed for the weekend. But then he and some of his friends became Jehovah's witnesses. Later a local businessman was moved to comment: "The whole atmosphere of this town has changed. Now it feels safe at night."

There was another person who had been part of a ring that systematically stole government property. But after starting to study the Bible with Jehovah's witnesses he came to realize the seriousness of his wrong and voluntarily confessed. After serving his jail sentence, he got baptized. Now he is the overseer of a local congregation of Jehovah's witnesses.

If you should attend the Suva assembly you may also meet a Witness who once was a fire walker. Or you may meet the full-time minister whose great-grandfather was a cannibal, and who ate ninety-nine men. The assembly site is the Suva Town Hall, a brand-new million-dollar structure.



Witness minister calling at hut in Fiji

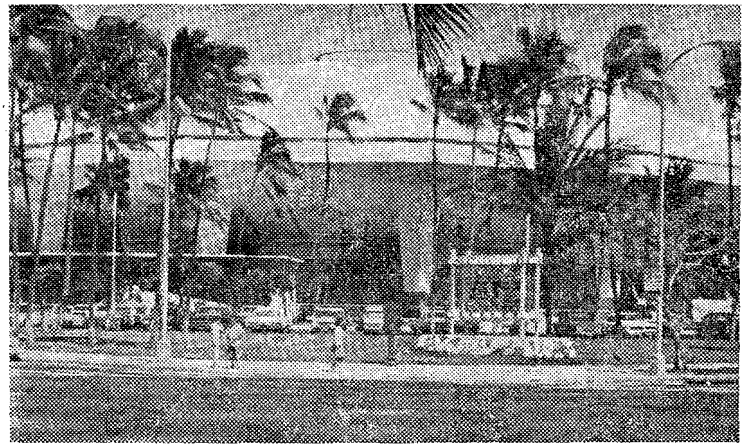
PAPEETE

An assembly also will be held at Papeete, Tahiti, simultaneously with the one in Suva. Tahiti is a tiny Pacific island of some 85,000 inhabitants lying many miles west of Fiji. The Tahitians, with their happy mixture of easy Polynesian frankness and expressive French uninhibitedness, are truly an effervescent and vibrant people.

This will be the first international assembly on Tahiti and the first time an assembly has been held other than at their Kingdom Hall. This time the Kingdom Hall will be used as the cafeteria, and the assembly will be held at the Fautaua Basketball Stadium. This is a large indoor arena, completely covered, but very cool and airy. Tahiti's 134 Witnesses are looking forward to welcoming many visitors to this assembly.

HONOLULU

The last stop for the "Peace on Earth" International Assembly in the Pacific is Honolulu, Hawaii, November 11 to 16. This assembly



Main auditorium where 1969 assembly is to be held in Hawaii

will be held at the Honolulu International Center. Its main auditorium, where the assembly program will be put on, can accommodate 8,731 persons in upholstered chairs.

Actually the entire Honolulu International Center is a modern complex containing a concert hall, exhibition hall and main auditorium. Each section contains superb lighting, an excellent sound system and is completely air-conditioned.

The exhibition hall will be used primarily for the cafeteria. Its large size and convenient facilities will make dining together an additional treat of the assembly. This will be a fine opportunity for the thousands of expected visitors from other lands to sample some of the local foods.

The preaching work of Jehovah's witnesses in Hawaii was organized in 1935 with the construction of the first building in the world called a Kingdom Hall. By 1938 the little group of Witnesses had grown to a congregation of thirteen. But now there are over 2,800 Witnesses and thirty-seven congregations in Hawaii! Particularly outstanding is the fact that 9 percent of Jehovah's witnesses here are in the regular full-time ministry as pioneers. And most of these persons are in their early twenties.

It was six years ago that the only other international assembly was held in Hawaii. On that occasion over 6,000 persons from many countries assembled near the foot of world-famous Diamond Head at the Waikiki Shell.

MEXICO CITY

The "Peace on Earth" International Assembly concludes in Mexico City, December 24 to 28. It will be held at the Mexico Arena. For the convenience of those throughout Mexico, there will also be nine smaller assemblies in various parts of the country. These will be in the cities of Ciudad Obregon, Ciudad Juárez, Monterrey, Tampico, Veracruz, Merida, Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Acapulco and Guadalajara.

Young Witnesses in Hawaii share in spreading Bible message

There are three cultures in Mexico—the ancient Indian, the Spanish and the modern. So here the old meets the new. You see the slow, hardworking burro alongside the sleek modern automobile, and overhead the jet airliners.

Scattered throughout the country are descendants of the original inhabitants—the Toltecs, the Zapotecs, the Mexicanos, the Yaquis, the Aztecs, the Mayas, and many others. Although the brown color predominates, there are Negroes of African descent as well as descendants of white Europeans and people of Asiatic descent. However, there is no segregation.

In this atmosphere of ancient and modern and great variety, the teaching work of Jehovah's witnesses is finding acceptance among the people. Although some work was done here in earlier years, it was in 1931 that a beginning was noted in an organized way with eighty-two active Witnesses. This number has grown to nearly 40,000! In 1946 a four-story branch office was completed in Mexico City. When these quarters became too small, a new five-story building was put up in 1962 and integrated with the four-story structure.

Although Spanish is the principal language of the country, it is not spoken by everyone. As one traveling minister observed: "I had to learn a few words in Zapoteco in order to eat. I also learned how to present the Kingdom message in Zapoteco." In these rural areas many are responding to Bible truths.

Illiteracy is high in Mexico, and to help people progress in their knowledge of God and his purposes Jehovah's witnesses have provided literacy classes. In 1968 alone they taught 1,491 persons to read and write! Government officials have expressed appreciation for this service. Recently a mayor called the instructor of one such class and told him: "I want to express our gratitude for the good you are doing for our people and I have also called you to provide whatever you may need."

THE PROGRAM

Monday, July 14

9 a.m.—12:05 p.m.: Reports from Africa.
Welcome to the "Peace on Earth" Assembly.
"Come Before Jehovah with Thanksgiving."
Our Brothers in Malawi and Zambia Report They Are Pursuing Peace.
Acquaint Yourself with God and Keep Peace.
1:40–4:35 p.m.: Reports from lands in the north.
Is the Bible Really the Word of God?
Loyal Advocates of the Word of God.
6:30–9:05 p.m.: Reports from Europe and Asia.
Never Too Busy to Pray.
Ministering in a Fine Manner.
Thorns and Traps Are in the Way of the Independent One.

Tuesday, July 15

9 a.m.—12:10 p.m.: How Do You View Authority?
Using the Gift of Music to Praise Jehovah.
Show Respect for Jehovah's Appointments.
1:40–4:35 p.m.: Reports from the Caribbean.
What Are You Living For?—Worldly Associations? The Pleasures of Drink? Opportunities to Toy with Sexual Immorality? Illicit Satisfaction of Fornication and Adultery? or Life in God's New Order?
Overseers, Carry On as Men.
6:30–9:05 p.m.: Reports from the islands and Central America.
Making My Home a House of God.—Is My Home Wholesome? As Husband and Wife, Do We Communicate? Do Our Children Confide in Us? A Faithful Course in a Divided Household.

Wednesday, July 16

1:40–4:35 p.m.: Reports from Europe.
Loving Oversight of the Congregation of God—Through District and Circuit Servants. Through Congregation Servants. Through Ministerial Servants.
"With All That You Acquire, Acquire Understanding."
6:30–9:05 p.m.: Reports from Northern Europe and Central America.
Aid to Bible Understanding.
Your Bible Questions Answered.

Thursday, July 17

1:40–4:35 p.m.: Reports from U.S.A. and the Orient.
Should There Be a Generation Gap in the Christian Home?
Rights or Duties—Which?
Peace with God amid the "Great Tribulation."
6:30–9 p.m.: Reports from Africa, the Middle East, and the Americas.
"Let No Man Ever Look Down on Your Youth."

Friday, July 18

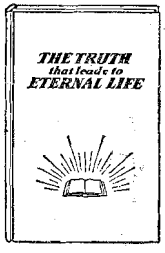
8:45–9:30 a.m.: Seeking the Goodwill of God (Baptismal talk).
1:40–4:35 p.m.: Reports from the Indian Ocean.
The Call to Pioneer—a Grand Personal Opportunity.
How to Stay in Full-Time Service.
Enlarging Our Privileges of Service in the Time Remaining.
"The Writing of Correct Words of Truth."
6:30–9:05 p.m.: Reports from South America.
What Is Your Security?—Your Home? Your Bank Account? Your Job?
Are You a Modern-Day Jonah?

Saturday, July 19

1:40–4:35 p.m.: Reports from Behind the Iron Curtain.
Whom Do You Serve?
You Are No Part of the World.
Appreciating the Organization That Is Educating Us for Life.
Final Woes to Enemies of Peace with God.
6:30–9:05 p.m.: Reports from the Pacific.
How to Stand Firm in This Time of the End.
Happy Are You When People Persecute You.
Fortify Yourself so as to Maintain Integrity.

Sunday, July 20

9 a.m.—12:05 p.m.: "Among the Congregated Throngs I Shall Bless Jehovah."
There Is Work Yet to Be Done.
Do Not Miss the Purpose of Jehovah's Deliverance.
3 p.m.: Public Address: THE APPROACHING PEACE OF A THOUSAND YEARS.
4:45–6 p.m.: Continue to Live Peaceably.



Would you like a brief, easy-to-understand presentation of what the Bible really teaches? It is available in the pocket-sized book **The Truth That Leads to Eternal Life.** Its 22 chapters take you in logical order through the basic teachings of the Bible. A copy will be sent for only 25c. You may also have upon request a free, six-month home Bible-study course.

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To order any of the above, send your request and remittance to:

WATCHTOWER 117 ADAMS ST. BROOKLYN, N.Y. 11201

1969 REPORT

"Peace on Earth"

INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

TWENTY-FIVE ASSEMBLY CITIES — **ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD**

DELEGATES ON HAND FROM 114 LANDS!

Swarming to the assembly cities in North America in July are thousands upon thousands of delegates from no less than 114 lands. Over 11,790 of them planned to come from places other than the United States and Canada. At least 45 charter flights were scheduled, 38 of them originating in Europe and carrying a total of some 6,346 delegates!

Delegates have come from such places as Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Sweden, Finland, West Germany, Switzerland, Italy, France and Spain. They also have come from Central and South America, as well as the Pacific area and from as far away as India, Australia and South Africa.

Meet Some of the Delegates

The assembly delegates from these many lands are of all ages and from all walks of life. Here from Barbados is a sister eighty-nine years of age and of the anointed; another sister present from Barbados is eighty-two years of age.

From Quezaltenango, Guatemala, has come a sixteen-year-old pioneer. He is of the Maya Quiche Indian people.

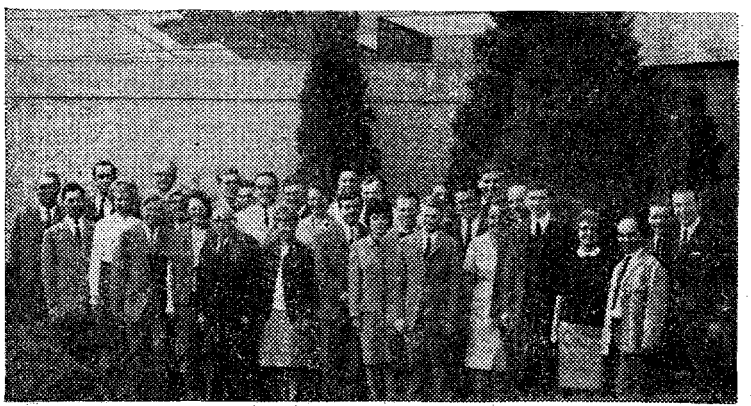
From Korea there is a sister who is the wife of a former prime minister of Korea. She came into the truth when her husband was prime minister.

From Israel we have among us a sister fluent in some ten languages, and able to converse in another ten or more. She uses her flair for languages to advance Kingdom interests.

From Canada has come an Eskimo who was witnessed to at the Hudson Bay Company Trading Post. He now has a good knowledge of the truth and plans to attend the Vancouver assembly. He hopes to remain in Edmonton for a year to grow spiritually, then return to the Arctic to witness to his fellow Eskimos.

From Brazil is a twenty-one-year-old brother, completely paralyzed. A number of brothers wanted to help him get to New York, but he would need someone to help him get around and to care for his needs. So the brothers got together and purchased tickets for both of them.

Here with us is a brother from Surinam who came into the truth despite tremendous opposition from his wife. His background? He held a prominent position on a rice plantation, was chairman



About a third of the German Bethel family, ready to attend New York assembly and visit Society's headquarters

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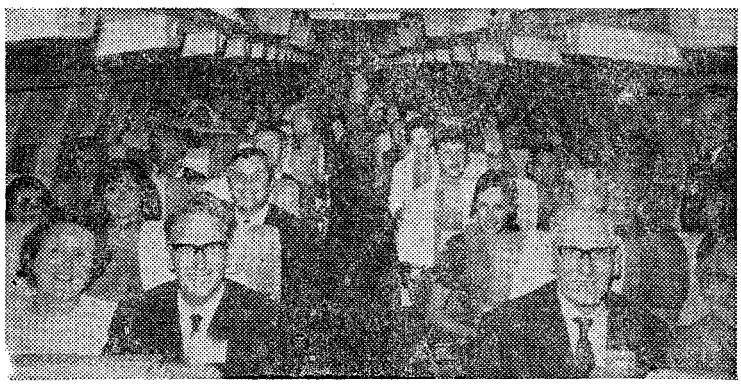


Over a thousand happy British delegates have come to the assemblies in North America

of a local union, chairman of a political party, leader of the boy scouts, and member of a Freemason society.

Here is a sister from Liberia who stood firm during three days of persecution at Gbarnga, Liberia, in 1963. She has supported herself by operating a cook shop. From the profits over the years, she has managed to save enough to come.

A brother and sister in Jamaica had to overcome problems to get to the assembly. They worked hard to save enough money. Then it was stolen. They saved again, but next their passports were stolen. They worked hard to get replacements—and succeeded.

From Santiago, Chile, has come a seventeen-year-old pioneer. To maintain himself in the pioneer work he learned how to work with copper. Now he employs two other youths, and they operate his business while he pioneers. To come to New York he needed to be in company with an adult who would be responsible for him. When he found this out, he determined to make enough money to bring another brother with him. Thus he invited a circuit servant to accompany him on the trip, and has paid the fare for himself and the circuit servant.

Delegates Arriving on Chartered Planes

What a show of love the early arrivals experienced, on June 6, at Kennedy International Airport in New York! About 60 brothers from Brooklyn Bethel went out to meet and greet the 58 incoming branch servants and their assistants, as well as missionaries.

Brother Knorr, the Watch Tower Society's president, and Milton G. Henschel, a director of the Society and Convention Chairman at Yankee Stadium, were among the reception committee. So large a welcome was totally unexpected by the incoming delegates, especially since it was near midnight. The enthusiasm ran high. Warm Christian love and tender brotherly affection was evident as brothers greeted one another heartily. This made those present feel as if the "Peace on Earth" International Assembly had already begun.

Cars were lined up to transport the branch servants to the Bethel home, and the missionaries to their rooming assignment locations. It was about 2 a.m. before a brother from England had a chance to prepare for bed. He remarked: "In England I would be getting up about this time. Now, here I am going to bed."

Other charter flight arrangements show that large groups of delegates planned to flock in from the Caribbean area. Approximately 1,000 delegates have planned to be at Yankee Stadium from Puerto Rico alone!

Another 220 conventioners made arrangements to come from Guadeloupe; 185 from Martinique, and 25 from French Guiana. Jamaica said she was sending over 800 delegates. And beautiful Barbados and surrounding islands were sending 145 delegates, while Trinidad would be represented by about 160.

South and Central America had plans to send representatives numbering well over 1,300 to the "Peace on Earth" assembly. Sixty are expected from Japan.

Delegates from Nigeria and Ghana being welcomed to New York by the convention chairman

Foreign-Language Programs

The "Peace on Earth" assembly represents a multilingual convention. In New York city even before the English sessions at Yankee Stadium got under way, the brothers coming from other countries were scheduled to hold meetings in Kingdom Halls throughout the city.

The large Jehovah's Witnesses Assembly Hall, where the Gilead graduations and the circuit assemblies are ordinarily held in New York, was set aside for the use of our German and Swedish brothers in assembly. Upward of 2,500 brothers from Germany and 668 from Sweden were scheduled to meet there July 5 and 6.

At the same time, the Dutch, Danish, Finnish, Italian, Japanese and Norwegian brothers were all scheduled to have meetings in their own languages in Kingdom Halls. For these foreign-speaking brothers the "Peace on Earth" assembly had an early beginning.

For the benefit of visiting brothers from other countries certain special language sessions have been arranged at Yankee Stadium on the mornings of Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, July 9-12, from 9:45 to approximately 11:45. The meetings are to be in Arabic, Armenian, Chinese, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese and Swedish.

In addition, during the entire New York convention, from July 7 to 13, complete convention sessions in French and Spanish are scheduled to be held in tents near Yankee Stadium. The French and Spanish programs are to run simultaneously with the English program inside the Stadium. Thousands of French delegates expect to be present. They are pouring down from Quebec, Canada, and from other places. A large number of delegates are due to come from the Caribbean Islands and from as far away as France and Africa.

Some 10,000 Spanish-speaking brothers are expected to be on hand early in the assembly week! From Central and South America and from as far away as Spain they are here!

First Week—An Assembly in Three Cities

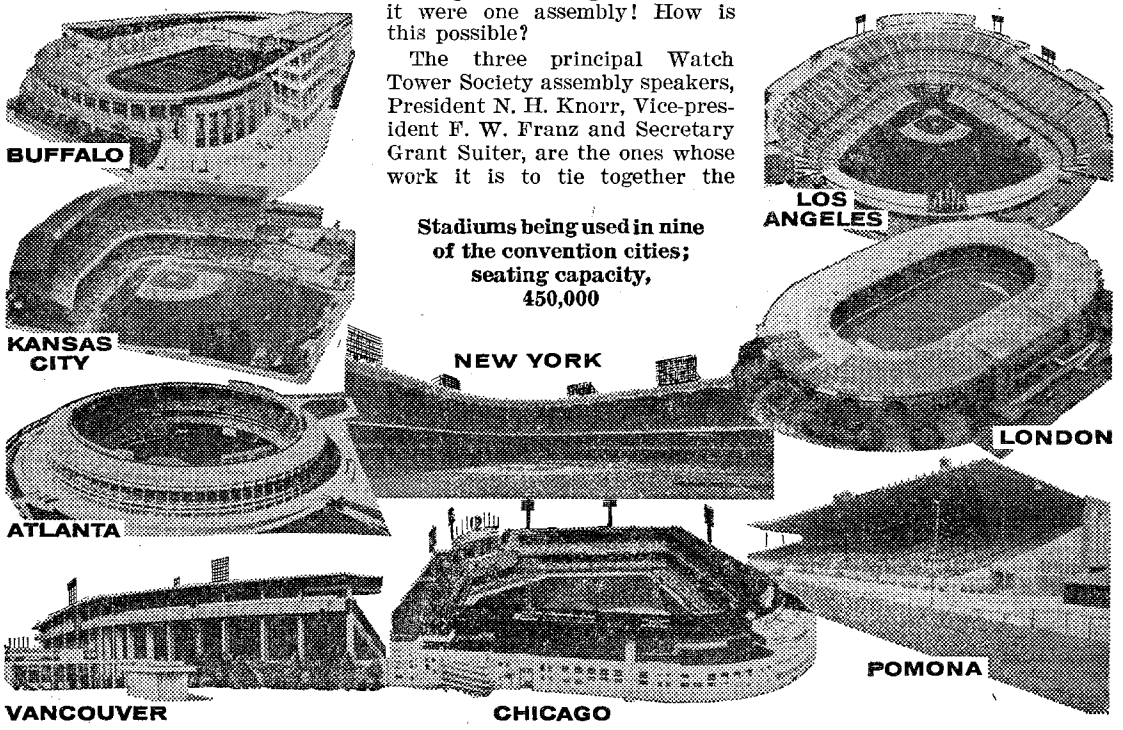
Atlanta, Georgia, is 713 air miles from Buffalo, New York, and 760 air miles from New York city. Buffalo itself is 301 air miles from Yankee Stadium. Imagine uniting these three cities with a single program and conducting the arrangement as if it were one assembly! How is this possible?

The three principal Watch Tower Society assembly speakers, President N. H. Knorr, Vice-president F. W. Franz and Secretary Grant Suiter, are the ones whose work it is to tie together the program by means of a tight schedule of discourses and travel. To meet their schedule they have to be airborne a number of times between the assembly points during the week, and thereafter.

On Sunday, July 6, Brother Knorr's schedule called for him to deliver the keynote address, "Acquaint Yourself with God and Keep Peace," in Atlanta, Georgia, while Brother Franz was to open the assembly that day in Buffalo, New York. A baseball game planned at Yankee Stadium for Sunday prevented all three assemblies from beginning at the same time.

The printed program, however, shows Brother Knorr at Yankee Stadium the next day, July 7, delivering the keynote speech. That afternoon he was to give the talk "Loyal Advocates of the Word of God," while the same talk in Atlanta was to be delivered by Brother Suiter and in Buffalo by Brother Franz.

On Wednesday, the program showed Brother Knorr in Buffalo and Brother Franz at Yankee Stadium. The closing days, Sat-



Stadiums being used in nine of the convention cities; seating capacity, 450,000

urday and Sunday, July 12 and 13, Brother Suiter is scheduled to be in Buffalo, Brother Franz in Atlanta and Brother Knorr in New York.

Other North American Assemblies

On July 13, while the first three assemblies are still in progress, the all-Spanish assembly in Pomona, California, gets under way.

Also on July 13, the assembly opens in Vancouver, Canada, at Empire Stadium. Imagine, on July 13, five assemblies will be in progress! Brothers Knorr and Franz are scheduled to be at Los Angeles and Vancouver, respectively, on Monday, July 14.

It was originally felt that the Empire Stadium would be large enough to handle the expected 35,000 delegates. But a flood of requests for accommodations poured in, and it appeared wise to plan for 45,000 conventioners. So the new Pacific Coliseum was rented. This is just a ten-minute walk from the Stadium. Every one of the coliseum's 15,015 seats provides a fine view of the platform. As at New York's Yankee Stadium and Polo Grounds in 1958, the assembly program will be put on at both of Vancouver's assembly sites.

On July 14 the assembly opens at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, California, and the program calls for Brother Knorr to deliver the keynote address. The flight plan shows Brother Knorr shuttling between Vancouver and Los Angeles, California, between July 16 and 19.

Meantime, on Friday, July 18, Brother Suiter is scheduled to fly to Kansas City, located in the heart of America's farm area, to speak at the city's 35,500-seat Municipal Stadium.

After the Los Angeles assembly concludes on July 20, Brothers Knorr and Franz are to be in Chicago, Illinois, and Kansas City on Monday morning.

The assembly in Chicago will evidently be the largest religious convention in Chicago's long history of conventions, going back to 1833. The site chosen for the assembly, the White Sox Ball Park, is unusual, because it is one of the few ball parks that has a double deck all the way around. It has a seating capacity of 46,500.

The Spanish assembly in Chicago will meet in two tents, behind the center-field bleachers of White Sox Park. A picnic area is available within White Sox Park, and this will be well utilized during the assembly.

Off to Europe!

No sooner is the assembly program over in Chicago, on July 27, than the schedule calls for Brother Knorr, along with a host of other delegates, to board planes for London, England, where the European "Peace on Earth" International Assemblies are due to begin on July 29. No fewer than seven charter flights from New York are heading in that direction, along with groups of delegates on many other planes.

It is expected that Wembley Stadium will seat about 70,000 conventioners, with room for a 10,000 overflow in the nearby Empire Pool, an indoor arena next to the stadium.

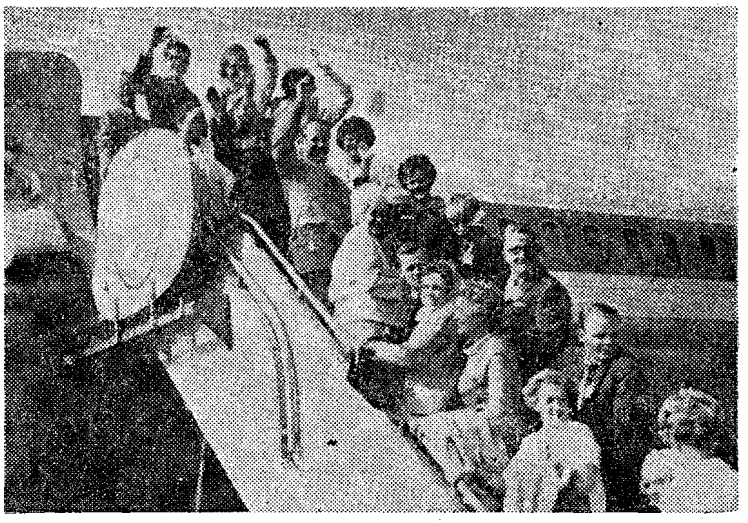
The assembly at Wembley Stadium promises to be vibrant with international color. Missionaries from forty-four lands are scheduled to be present. If Christian brothers from these countries wear their native costumes, imagine what a sight that will make!

From London the assembly moves to Paris and Copenhagen, then off to Nuremberg and Rome, with similar thrills in the making for those who will be privileged to be in attendance. A great crowd of brothers from Spain will doubtless make their way to the assembly in Italy. Provision has been made in Paris for the Portuguese, and in Nuremberg for the Dutch and Greeks.

By late June there had been room requests for about 115,000 persons sent to Nuremberg! Since there are about 10,000 Witnesses living in the Nuremberg area, this means that the assembly attendance will be well over 120,000 persons!

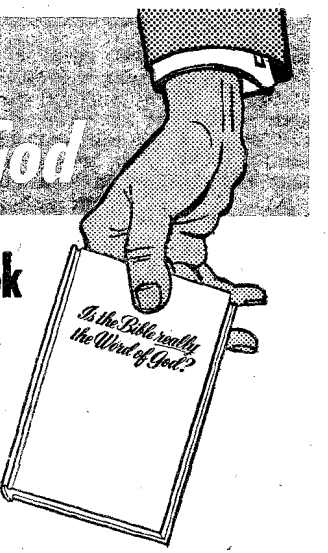
The Netherlands is sending five trains filled with Witnesses to Nuremberg, with each train as long as the law allows (15 cars). And from Germany itself there will be 40 special trains going to the assembly, with about 1,000 Witnesses on each train. Three special trains from Austria and two from Switzerland will bring more delegates. And about 1,000 buses from Germany and other countries will be bringing more.

Said a Watch Tower convention representative in New York: "Everything is getting bigger, much bigger than we thought!" This seems to be true with 1969's twenty-five-city "Peace on Earth" International Assembly! The immensity of the undertaking staggers the imagination!



Some of the 615 Danish delegates en route from Copenhagen to "Peace on Earth" assembly in New York

THE BIBLE —Really the Word of God



New pocket-sized book fills pressing need!

What a delight to have the new book *Is the Bible Really the Word of God?!* Released simultaneously in English and Spanish, the beautiful 192-page book was a grand surprise for so early in the convention!

How timely is such a book for use in these "last days" when the Bible is being subjected to increasing attacks!

You will want to offer this book to friends, relatives, indeed, everyone with whom you come in contact. It contains information that they all need to build faith in the Word of God. High school and college students are frequently exposed to anti-Biblical theories; the *Word of God* book will help them to evaluate the evidence and realize what is the truth. In the churches, too, confidence in the Bible as the inspired Word of God has been undermined. Even among those who profess to believe the Bible, how many can give sound reasons for accepting it as the Word of God? So churchgoers, too, can benefit from the book, and as they read it they will be helped to realize that the churches do not represent God's Word and that persons who want to serve God need to get out of those organizations and serve Jehovah now while there is yet time. The book will be placed for just 25 cents.

A Different Approach

Unlike other books printed on this subject, the *Word of God* book takes the position that the Bible's truthfulness is not dependent upon support from the theories of modern scientists. Actually scientific theories are a treacherous foundation, for what is popular and accepted today may be discredited tomorrow.

The book produces admissions from scientists, however, that things related in the Bible, such as the creation of earth, the occurrence of a global flood, and other unusual events, cannot be called either impossible, unscientific or unhistorical. It shows the reader why the known and established facts, as well as logic and reason, are on the side of the Bible and against its critics and opposers.

The new book also notes that the Bible's truthfulness is not dependent upon confirmative evidence uncovered by archaeologists. It shows, however, that what one would expect to find in the form of archaeological evidence has often been discovered.

Thus, the material in the book is not presented as though the Bible were in a weak position needing help in the form of testimony from worldly "authorities." Rather, the points are argued from strength—from the strength of the Bible's own powerful testimony, its reasonableness, and the fact that it answers questions that would otherwise remain unanswerable.

Loyal Advocates

What a thrill it was for conventioners to get this marvelous new book into their hands! How appropriately its release followed the fine material presented in the hour-long manuscript speech "Loyal Advocates of the Word of God"!

Right at the outset the speaker declared: "The Holy Bible has characteristics that put it in a class apart from all others." He then proceeded to cite evidence of its historical accuracy, the reliability of its prophecies, its honesty, high ideals and the pure motive of its writers. He also noted that the Bible answers the important questions we all have—where the earth and humans came from, why man dies, and what hope there is for the future. "For all these reasons," the speaker observed, "the Bible recommends itself to us as a book that deserves our earnest attention."

The speaker then posed challenging questions to the audience: "But what about you as an individual? Have you read the Bible—not just portions of it, but the entire Bible, from cover to cover? Have you studied it carefully to determine how it affects your life? Certainly this is the course of practical wisdom."

Loyalty Toward God and His Word

Striking at his theme, "Loyal Advocates of the Word of God," the speaker asked: "How can a person be loyal to Jehovah if he is filled with doubts about His Word?" He noted that this is the problem among many professed Christians—they do not have confidence that the Bible *really* is the Word of God. "Their attitude," he said, "does not reflect loyalty."

The burden of responsibility for this situation was laid right at the door of the religious organizations that have claimed to represent the Bible. "Outright disloyalty toward God and his Word prevails in the ranks of

the clergy," the speaker exclaimed. The example was cited of the Church of England clergyman who said:

"Could any intelligent twentieth-century man believe . . . that Jesus was born of a Virgin without the agency of a human father? If everyone who didn't believe in the Virgin Birth were asked to leave the Church of England there would be an acute shortage of clergy and hardly any professors left in our theological colleges."—*The Sunday Express*, August 6, 1967.

What complete lack of faith in God's Word! What is wrong with Christendom's religious leaders? "Do these clergymen believe only in those events that they have personally witnessed?" the speaker asked. "Do they refuse to believe that the earth itself had a beginning, simply because they were not on hand to see it happen?"

He then went on to reason: "Really, which would be more difficult: for God to cause a child to be conceived in the womb of a living virgin, or for him to create the first living human from lifeless matter? It is only reasonable that the Almighty Creator, who designed woman and gave her the ability to produce children, could also cause a woman to become pregnant by means of his invisible active force, his holy spirit."

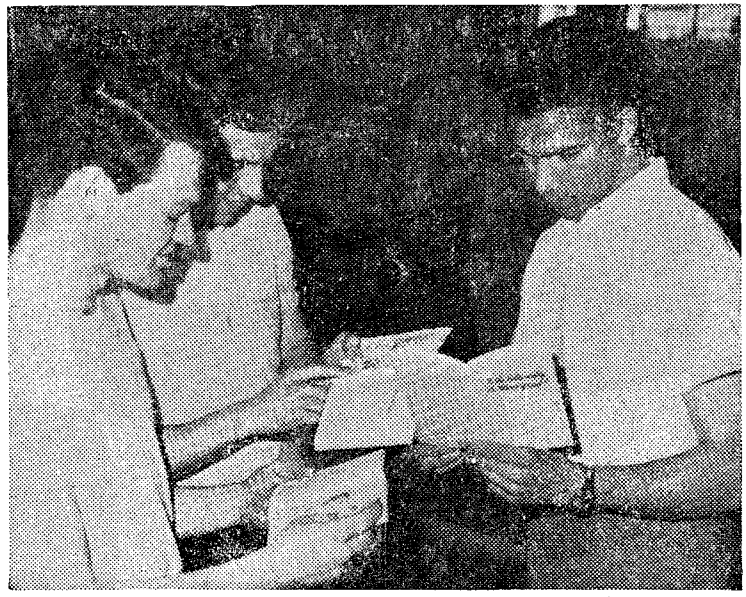
What a contrast there is between religionists of Christendom and loyal servants of God!

Especially have the clergy shown their disloyalty to God by their rejection of what his Word teaches about sexual morality.

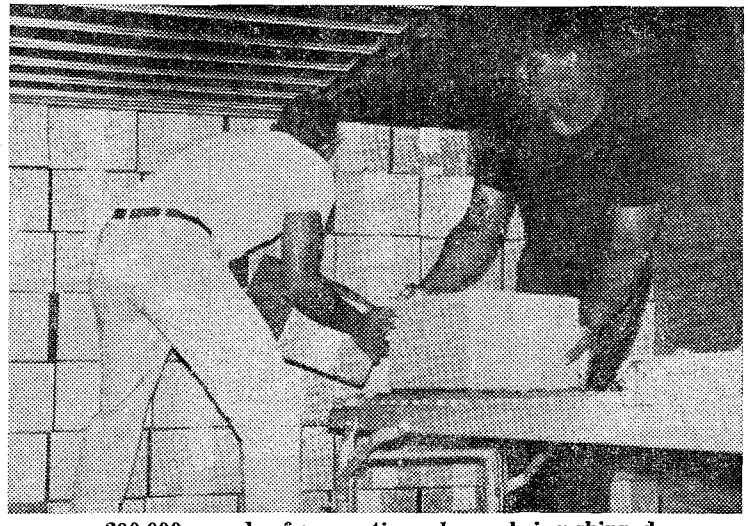
The speaker called attention to the assertion of Joseph Fletcher of an Episcopal theological school: "There is nothing against extra-marital sex as such . . . and in some cases it is good." (*Commonweal*, January 14, 1966) "Not content with that," the speaker added, Presbyterian minister Gordon Clanton said: " 'Now we must go further and proclaim that, properly understood and lovingly practiced, sex outside of marriage is indeed a positive good.' "—*The Christian Century*, January 8, 1969.

Furthermore, "in 1967 ninety Episcopalian priests meeting in New York declared that the church should recognize that homosexuality 'may even be a good thing.' And in the Netherlands two male homosexuals were 'married' by a Roman Catholic priest."

So in conclusion the speaker told the audience: "Now is the time to make one's position in relation to Jehovah God and his Word unmistakably clear." If you do not agree with the position of the clergy, he said, "it is vital to show it." Hundreds of thousands of persons are doing so. "They have quit the churches," the speaker emphasized, and "they regularly gather for worship in the more than 25,000 congregations of Jehovah's witnesses earth wide. They believe what the Bible says. They



Examining "Word of God" book in Watchtower factory; 1,500,000 copies were produced before the first was released



200,000 pounds of convention releases being shipped from New York to Los Angeles assembly

uphold its moral standards. . . . What a marvelous future such loyal servants of Jehovah have!"

Highlights of New Book

Just prior to this feature talk of the assembly, convention delegates were treated to an hour-and-a-half program of delightful information upholding the Bible as the Word of God. Little did they realize at the time that the material for the entire afternoon program was being taken directly from the yet-to-be-released book, *Is the Bible Really the Word of God?*

The early part of the afternoon program revolved around a family discussion in the home, including father, mother, son and daughter. At the outset the father remarked about the growing skepticism toward the Bible. The family then proceeded to discuss how to help persons who have doubts about the Bible.

As part of this discussion, the daughter mentioned that in school the Bible account regarding the origin of the universe was belittled as unscientific. The father responded that a brother from another congregation recently told him about a talk he heard at the Kingdom Hall that contained some fine information on this very matter.

Immediately the attention of the audience was diverted to the other side of the stage. There the aforementioned brother was heard giving his talk. He used material from the new book to show that there is no reliable scientific evidence that discredits the Bible account of creation. In fact, the speaker showed that Kahn and Palmer in the 1967 book *Quasars* admit: "We are almost completely ignorant about the early history of the universe."

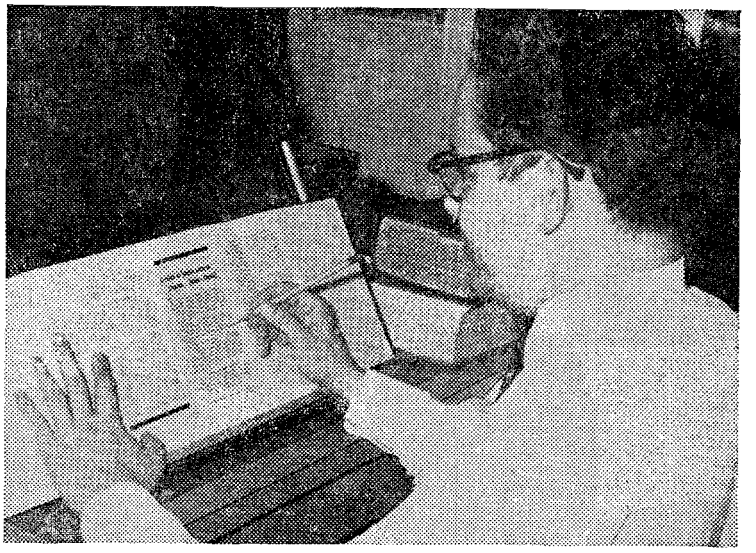
The son then demonstrated a call he made in which the householder asserted that the Genesis account of creation was based on pagan myths. The youth, however, was able to show the stark contrast between the absurd Babylonian myths and the simple, factual statements of God's Word regarding creation.

Next the daughter told how she was able to use information in support of the global Flood, showing that there is, even now, enough water in the oceans to cover the earth to a depth of one and a half miles if the land surface were smooth. She explained that she had an interesting discussion with two schoolmates, which was then demonstrated.

At this point another publisher stopped in to visit the family. He told about just making a call upon two college students. The family asked what happened, and the call was reenacted. The students objected that the Bible does not harmonize with ancient history. However, the publisher showed that ancient histories were at times exaggerated and twisted to suit the whims of ruling monarchs. For example, King Sennacherib's prism records Assyria's invasion of Judah and that King Hezekiah paid tribute, but, as one might expect, it includes no record of Sennacherib's defeat and the slaughter of 185,000 of his warriors. So merely because the Bible records certain information that secular histories do not include does not mean the Bible is inaccurate.

In another scene the group discussed the real practicalness of the Bible for our day. Bible believers are better off, for as a result of applying Bible principles they are more reliable workers, enjoy better health and have a superior homelife.

Then a visit of the mother to the doctor's office for her son's regular checkup was enacted. During the visit she showed the skeptical doctor the reasonableness of the Bible's miracles. For example, she mentioned that recently many saw astronauts float weightlessly while on trips through outer space. So, she asked, should it seem incredible that the One who created water and the law of gravity could control what he created and make it possible for Jesus to walk on water?



Spanish edition of "Word of God" book being proofread

Finally, the father observed that, while all the evidence thus far considered is consistent with the Bible's being God's Word, prophecy is the strongest proof of this fact. In a scene in which the visiting publisher portrayed an agnostic, the father presented fine information showing the amazing reliability of Bible prophecy. He showed how it would have been impossible for Bible prophecies to have originated with humans.

How impressively the entire program demonstrated that the Bible truly is the Word of God! And how fine it is that all the things on this program are included in the new book, *Is the Bible Really the Word of God?!*

"Come Before Jehovah with Thanksgiving"

On the opening day of the "Peace on Earth" International Assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses the convention chairman called on the conventioners to "Come Before Jehovah with Thanksgiving." Right away the remarks of the chairman began to open up what was in store, readying the audience for what was to follow.

Reminding them of the reason for their coming to this season of united worship, he invited all present to open their Bibles to Psalm 95. Then as with one voice they read aloud the thrilling introductory words of that psalm.

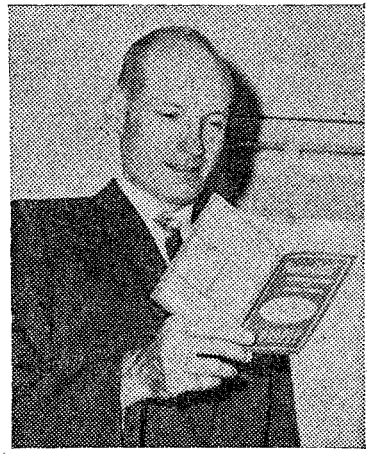
Here in the peaceful atmosphere of the assembly all could reflect on Jehovah's loving dealings with his people of ancient times. As the speaker brought out, Jehovah has often called his people together for special outpourings of his blessings and spirit. And those gatherings were times of peace, peace among themselves, peace from enemies roundabout, and peace with their God, Jehovah.

Assembly for Thanksgiving Today

At all of those assemblies, the chairman continued, there was thankfulness on the part of those present as they recounted, not only the past evidences of Jehovah's favor on his people, but also the blessings they were currently enjoying. So today, at this "Peace on Earth" International Assembly there is much over which to rejoice, much for which to offer thanksgiving to the Great Provider of good things. We are in the time when God's king has assumed his Kingdom power, the time when the very criticalness of earthly conditions gives powerful evidence that the end of a wicked system is near. We are in a time of grand revelations about God's purposes and of unparalleled unity in action among Jehovah's people on earth.

Still another prime reason for thanksgiving today was graphically brought home to the audience when the chairman conducted interviews with persons who were, until recently knocked about and bruised amid the selfish, warring factions of a wicked system of things, bereft of peace, hope and real joy. Now they are rejoicing in the peace and unity to be found only in the ranks of Jehovah's thankful worshipers.

Yes, thankful persons from all walks of life are gathered at this assembly to express gratitude, and at the same time they receive additional cause for thankfulness. And, as the chairman pointed out, all can express thankfulness for this peaceful assembly. We can do so by attending each session here and attentively listening to all that is said from the platform.



New York convention chairman, M. G. Henschel

"With a program like this," said the chairman, after referring to some of its coming highlights, "who can afford to miss anything?" Again the whole audience was invited to open the Bible to Psalm 95 and in unison read verse 6 and the first half of verse 7. Yes, all present had reason to join in saying: WE THANK YOU, JEHOVAH, WITH *ALL OUR HEART.*

Conventioners Welcomed

Just prior to the chairman's opening address, a brief word of welcome was offered. The speaker expressed the thought that peace, when associated with God, usually suggests to our minds some isolated spot amid the grandeur of creation, while peace, linked with man, usually had to do with the rest of sleep in death, with cemeteries, with battlefields after the dead have been buried out of sight. But in these days a new and very real peace can be offered, one linked with living humans—the peace of a Christian assembly.

In fact, it is the pursuit of peace that has brought all these thousands together at this "Peace on Earth" assembly. All are keen to learn how to use that marvelous peacemaking instrument, the Bible, to greater advantage. And many others, attracted by the peace and harmony of true Christians, come to satisfy curiosity and stay to drink deeply of the refreshing, peace-imparting Bible knowledge that is available here.

It was not easy, continued the speaker, for everyone present to get here for this assembly. It took planning, sacrifices, radical departure from normal schedule. But it will prove to be well worth it all, for here we are at Jehovah's invitation, his spirit is present to bless and direct, and he has prepared a sumptuous feast of good spiritual things for us. With Bible and note pad at hand, are we all ready to make the most of the occasion? the speaker asked.

His concluding words constituted an earnest invitation to do just that, for he urged his listeners: "Let's enjoy to the full the keenly anticipated occasion, the "Peace on Earth" International Assembly, as another timely provision of Jehovah God, our Host."

Getting Acquainted with GOD

'Glorious is Jehovah as he rides along on his celestial chariot to the execution of his judgments! It behooves men to acquaint themselves with this God and make peace and keep peace with him.' How fittingly those words, taken from the assembly's keynote speech, "Acquaint Yourself with God and Keep Peace," underscored the theme of the "Peace on Earth" International Assembly!

This discourse was designed to give all who heard it a better appreciation of the awesome majesty of Jehovah God. More so than other talks about God, it built up a tremendous sense of awe for the Sovereign of the Universe. The keynote speaker also stressed the blessing of being acquainted with Him and the need for increasing that acquaintanceship. He showed that "by getting acquainted with the Holy Bible a person can get acquainted with God, its Author." Why? Because the Bible gives instances where God's servants were favored with miraculous visions of Jehovah God. Among such favored ones were Moses, the prophets Isaiah, Ezekiel and Daniel, and the apostle John.

Yes, from the time of Moses on to the closing years of the apostle John, it was brought out, certain servants of Jehovah God were favored with glimpses of His supernatural splendor. While Enoch and Noah walked with the true God, the very first of these specially favored ones were Moses, Aaron and two of his sons, and seventy of the older men of Israel. Right after the making of a covenant between Jehovah and Israel these were taken up into Mount Sinai and, as the Bible tells it, "got to see the God of Israel," yes, "got a vision of the true God and ate and drank."—Ex. 24:9-11.

Moses Uniquely Favored

Moses, however, the audience next learned, was favored with an even more direct and intimate acquaintanceship with Jehovah. This is apparent from Jehovah's own words when rebuking Aaron and Miriam for complaining against Moses: "He is being entrusted with all my house. Mouth to mouth I speak to him, thus showing him . . . and the appearance of Jehovah is what he beholds."—Num. 12:7, 8.

On one occasion Moses witnessed a special appearance of Jehovah. And although he saw but an afterglow of Jehovah's glory while hidden in a hole in a rock and covered by the palm of Jehovah, it was so powerful that afterward Moses' face emitted light rays, making it necessary for him to cover his face when speaking to his people. At the same time Moses heard a wondrous declaration of the personality of God, showing that he is a God of love, yet also of justice. As the speaker went on to note:

"He keeps his loving treatment of [his creatures] in perfect balance with a just treatment [of them]." Yes, all could agree with the speaker when he exclaimed: 'What a matchless God! A God of perfect love, perfect justice, perfect power and perfect wisdom. Such an adorable personality deserved to be associated with a brilliance of glory that was too bright for weak human eyes to behold or a frail human body to encounter. . . . Today, by believing and accepting Moses' vision of divine glory, we acquaint ourselves better with this marvelous God Jehovah!'

Isaiah's Temple Vision

Moses, however, did not remain alone among men in having a miraculous vision of Jehovah God. As the speaker pointed out, 736 years later the prophet Isaiah was somewhat similarly favored. He saw Jehovah "sitting on a throne lofty and lifted up, and his skirts were filling the temple. Seraphs were standing above him."—Isa. 6:1-4.

To emphasize the supreme holiness of Jehovah, these seraphs made a threefold declaration of Jehovah's holiness back and forth to one another. Explained the keynote speaker: "Already we can see the glory of Jehovah God in all his masterly works of creation, both living things and lifeless things. But the time approaches when all the inhabitants of earth will join us in discerning Jehovah's glory in the things that he has created," for "not in vain has it been predicted: 'The earth will be filled with the knowing of the glory of Jehovah as the waters themselves cover over the sea.' "—Hab. 2:14.

How did Isaiah respond? The conventioners learned that the sights and sounds associated with this vision of Jehovah enthroned in his temple frightened Isaiah. He even feared for his life because of his unclean condition. But after being cleansed by a glowing coal from the altar by which one of the seraphs touched his tongue, Isaiah felt clean in the divine presence and volunteered to go on a prophetic errand. Then the speaker asked

of his listeners truly searching questions: "But what about us? Do we, on becoming better acquainted with Jehovah God, readily offer ourselves for His service, as Isaiah did?"—Isa. 6:1-13.

Ezekiel Sees Jehovah as Charioteer

The next one to be given a miraculous vision of Jehovah God, it was explained, was the prophet Ezekiel. He had his first awe-inspiring vision while an exile in Babylonia. He saw Jehovah as a glorious charioteer, seated on a throne high above a colossal chariot that was accompanied by four cherubs or living creatures. The size of this chariot was so great that it made Ezekiel feel very small. It was at the time when Jehovah God was on the march, as it were, toward executing his judicial decisions against his unfaithful people. This chariot had no engine or motor, needed neither steering gear nor brakes. What made it go? The speaker emphasized: It was the active force, the spirit of the One who rode on it, Jehovah God.

Basing his remarks on Ezekiel, chapter 1, the speaker noted that each of the four living creatures accompanying the chariot had the face of a man in front, that of a lion to the right, that of a bull to the left, and the face of an eagle. Not that such creatures described actually exist in heaven, but the features of their appearance are symbolic of the good qualities outstandingly possessed by man, lion, bull and eagle. The chariot rider was pictured as moving ahead on an expanse or platform of translucent ice or congealed water. Above this chariot was a throne with Jehovah sitting upon it. There was the appearance of fire, of a rainbow and the splendor of electrum, that is, of gold and silver mixed.

Ezekiel found this vision of Jehovah so awesome, explained the keynote speaker, that he fell upon his face, prostrating himself. Yes, such a miraculous vision of God's glory was awesome enough to make man quail and feel impelled to worship. The following year Ezekiel had a quite similar vision of Jehovah's glory. And twenty years later he had still another miraculous vision of "the glory of the God of Israel."—Ezek. 10:1-5; 8:1; 40:1-4; 43:1-4.

Daniel Sees Universal Sovereign

Pursuing his theme of the part miraculous visions played in getting servants of God better acquainted with Him, the speaker next told how the prophet Daniel was blessed in this way. After seeing four huge beasts, picturing world powers, Daniel saw thrones placed, one for Jehovah and the other, most likely, for his Son, Jesus Christ. Then he beheld in vision Jehovah as the Ancient of Days: "His clothing was white just like snow, and the hair of his head was like clean wool. His throne was flames of fire; its wheels were a burning fire. There was a stream of fire flowing and going out from before him. There were a thousand thousands that kept ministering to him, and ten thousand times ten thousand that kept standing right before him." —Dan. 7:9, 10.

Explaining this vision, the speaker showed that the wisdom of the Supreme Court Judge and Sovereign of the universe is highlighted by the hair of his head in being like clean wool. His clothing being white just like snow pictured the brilliance of his righteousness in handing down decisions. The fire associated with this vision suggests that fiery judgment is approaching, even as at Psalm 97:1-3 we read that before Jehovah's throne "a very fire goes, and it consumes his adversaries all around."

All listening felt like the speaker when he exclaimed: "What an acquaintanceship with God, 'the Supreme One,' this vision to Daniel gives us! The One Most High over all creation in heaven and earth is He! Presiding Judge of the Court of Last Instance is He!" The new rulership of the earth he gives to his Messiah.

More than any others, it was stressed, the Son of God when on earth was able to enlarge our acquaintanceship with Jehovah. For he was able to say: "He that has seen me has seen the Father also." (John 14:9) Jesus could say this because he perfectly reflected his Heavenly Father. By his teachings, his works, his way of life as a perfect man on earth, the Messiah truly enlarged our acquaintanceship with Jehovah God.

John Enters Heaven in Vision

And finally, the keynote address brought out, there was the apostle John who received a revelation that portrayed Jehovah God as no previous men of God had seen him in vision. As it were, John entered right into heaven itself to get this divine vision. There he saw seated on a throne One whose appearance was like jewels. Out of the throne proceeded lightnings and voices and thunders, and before it was a glassy sea like crystal. (Rev. 4:1-8) Here also were four winged creatures of symbolic appearance who ascribed threefold holiness to Jehovah. To John's eyes Jehovah sparkled like a gem; truly he is light, and there is no darkness in union with him.—1 John 1:5.

Peace by Acquainting Ourselves with God

'Surely,' the speaker continued, 'now of all times is the opportune time to acquaint ourselves with the ever-living God who bears the name Jehovah, the Almighty One. We may already be acquainted with him, to some degree, as Job was, but just as Job was brought into a more intimate relationship with Jehovah, so likewise we can now increase our acquaintanceship with Him.'—Job 42:5, 6.

And how encouraging were the closing words of this keynote speech: 'Today as never before God's written Word has been opened to our understanding. As a result, we can grow in appreciation of him. We can pray to him with more accurate knowledge. We can rely upon him with more confidence as if seeing him who is invisible. Thus we can make this only adorable God a part of our daily experience. It indeed means peace for us to acquaint ourselves with this God, a true peace. We want the peace of friendship with him. We want to be people toward whom God has goodwill. Then it will be certain that good things will come to us from Him, both now and in God's promised new order where we shall experience God's goodness forever.' —Luke 2:14.

PRAISING JEHOVAH with Music

Scheduled early on the assembly program was the rather novel talk, "Using the Gift of Music to Praise Jehovah." This subject tied in well with the theme of the assembly, for certainly good music is conducive to peace, and when there is "peace on earth" mankind will be using the gift of music to praise Jehovah.

This talk gave to all a hitherto little appreciated view of the prominence of music in the Bible. It gave encouragement to all, regardless of how poor their voices might be, to share in singing praise to Jehovah God and to enjoy listening to such songs of praise.

Music Uniquely a Gift

The speaker showed how music uniquely is a gift. For one thing, it was given only to man. Animals do not have this gift. The few notes that birds sing by instinct in no way compare to the capacity for music given to mankind. Nor does music depend upon "civilization." Some of the most primitive peoples show great musical talent, and we are told that Negro plantation melodies conform to all the rules of musical composition. This, incidentally, disproves any theory of the evolution of music.

'What great variety there is in music!' the speaker exclaimed. There are the various kinds of male and female voices, as well as the many kinds of musical instruments. Also a great variety of moods can be expressed and forms of composition used. No wonder that Martin Luther once stated: "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world."

Gift of Music Misused

Even as with God's other gifts, the gift of music has often been misused. It has been used to idolize creatures, composers and performers. How unwise this has been can be seen from the fact that some of the foremost composers and musicians, in both the classical and popular fields, have been greatly depraved, one even being described in a book review as a "moral monster."

The gift of music is also misused, the speaker went on to note, when it is employed to encourage rebellion and exaggerate the "generation gap," as many popular songs do, as well as when these extol the use of narcotics and promiscuous sex. Music is also misused when it serves to make false religion appealing.

Right Use of Music

The audience, however, also learned of the many fine uses to which music can be and is being put. The playing of good music brings comfort and joy into the lives of ever so many people. Good background music makes mealtime more enjoyable and lightens household chores. This is especially true of the recorded Kingdom songs, distributed by the Watch Tower Society.

Just recently great strides have been made in the use of music to help mentally retarded and brain-damaged children, and that when nothing else was able to help them. However, the best and most noble use to which music can be put, the speaker stressed, is to praise Jehovah, even as the Bible repeatedly shows. Thus at Psalm 47:6, 7, we read: "Make melody to God, make melody. Make melody to our King, make melody. For God is King of all the earth; make melody, acting with discretion."

The speaker then noted that, while the audience's paying close attention contributed to the success of any program, this particular program feature was unique: It had the largest cast of any in that all the audience could contribute to its success not only by paying attention but also by actively cooperating. How? By them themselves singing songs illustrating certain aspects of musical worship.

Music and the Bible

How highly musical historians rate the Bible was indeed news to most in the audience. Kurt Sachs, a leading modern musical historian, once wrote that "among the world's books few can lay claim to greater importance for the history of music than the Bible." Among other authorities quoted was the one that stated: "Throughout the history of the Jewish people we find music mentioned with a frequency that perhaps exceeds its mention in the history of any other people."

Bearing out the truth of these statements, said the speaker, were the many references to music in the Bible. As early as Genesis 4:21 we find music mentioned, and seemingly put on a par with agriculture and manufacturing, the basic occupations of mankind. More than 3,000 years ago the servants of King Saul appreciated the psychosomatic value of music, they having a fine harpist, David, play for Saul when he had spells of melancholia. Also, at 2 Kings 3:15 there is recorded a unique use of music, for the gift of inspiration settled on the prophet Elisha upon his hearing the playing of a stringed instrument —at his request.

Praising Jehovah with Music

The conventioners were told that the first use of music to praise Jehovah, as mentioned in the Bible, is by Moses and the rest of the sons of Israel upon their deliverance from Pharaoh's pursuing army at the Red Sea. In the time of King David the use of music to praise Jehovah, which previously had been a spontaneous, impromptu affair,

became highly organized. In fact, according to one authority, King David organized the earliest body of official musicians. He had a large band or orchestra playing at the time that he brought the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem. And especially did King Solomon employ a mammoth orchestra and choir at the dedication of the temple of Jehovah.

In particular is singing of praise to Jehovah made prominent in the Bible, the speaker noted. In fact, some 10 percent of the Bible is in the form of poetry that was sung. The Christian Greek Scriptures tell of Jesus' singing with his apostles and of the apostle Paul's singing. Paul in particular commands Christians to sing, in fact, to teach and admonish one another with songs, as at Ephesians 5:18-20; Colossians 3:16.

In Modern Times

The speaker next traced the prominent role that music played in the history of the modern witnesses of Jehovah. Their very first songbook was published the same year *The Watchtower* began to be published, namely, back in 1879. Since then a number of songbooks have been published from time to time, the last to appear, in English, being published in 1966, entitled "*Singing and Accompanying Yourselves with Music in Your Hearts.*" Each of these songbooks represented an improvement over previous ones. Among the progressive steps made by these was the dropping of all names of composers and authors so that all credit goes to Jehovah; the dropping of all archaic expressions; the dropping of all melodies found in other religious songbooks, and so forth. At present this songbook is also published in Danish, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Spanish and Swedish.

The Word Content

In particular has there been progress in the word content of these songs, said the speaker, in keeping with the promise at Proverbs 4:18 that the path of the righteous would shine ever brighter until the perfect day. These songs direct attention away from creatures, whether oneself or Jesus Christ, and to the Creator, Jehovah God. Each one of the nine fruits of the spirit mentioned at Galatians 5:22, 23 is the theme of one or more songs. And one, song No. 94, has something to say about all nine of these fruits.

Further, ever so many greatly beloved Bible texts are the themes of songs, such as, "Come to me, all you who are toiling and loaded down." (Matt. 11:28) "As for me and my household, we shall serve Jehovah." (Josh. 24:15) "Your people will be my people, and your God my God." —Ruth 1:16.

The speaker underscored the great blessing of having recordings of these songs, to serve as background music in Christian homes and for singing at social occasions. How much better to have such a songfest, than to be dancing to or singing songs with degrading words! The international aspect of all music was then noted as well as the fact that all continents of the globe are represented in this songbook, examples being given from songs in the Hawaiian, Oriental and modern American idiom.

Music Principles

So that all could better understand what music was about, the speaker next briefly touched on the basic essentials of all music—melody, harmony and rhythm. The various aspects of music, octaves, scales, harmony and basic rhythms were illustrated by recorded piano music.

The audience also learned about the range of the human ear, hearing from about 16 to 16,000 vibrations per second, and that the average human voice had a range of one and a half octaves. This is also the range of the songs in the Witness songbook.

Properly Rendering Songs

Most practical were the speaker's remarks relative to interpreting or properly rendering songs sung to Jehovah's praise. He noted that the elements that make for good public speaking, as far as delivery is concerned, also apply to singing. There is need to give thought to sufficient volume, enthusiasm, warmth and feeling, variety in pitch, pace and power, and so forth.

The audience was then called upon to share in the singing of four songs (it had previously assisted by singing two other songs), which illustrated the basic moods found in these songs: No. 44 (martial); No. 37 (heartfelt); No. 31 (joyous); No. 110 (grand, majestic).

In conclusion the speaker urged that, even as Jehovah's servants in ancient times were outstanding in the use of the gift of music to praise Jehovah, so should His modern servants be. It is a part of the formal worship of Christians, and since it is done to Jehovah's praise, we may rest assured that he is listening. It should be an expression of joy and appreciation. If all thus enter into the musical part of their worship, they will bring joy to the heart of Jehovah, honor to his name and much joy and benefit to themselves, as they use the gift of music to praise Jehovah.

Singing is part of our worship

HOW DO YOU VIEW AUTHORITY?

None need fear rebellion from Jehovah's witnesses. Police officials, teachers, employers, legislators and parents can all be confident that Jehovah's witnesses will respect their authority. What a contrast this is with the rest of the world!

For continued peace and harmony Jehovah's witnesses, at their "Peace on Earth" International Assembly, seriously discussed the need for proper obedience to authority.

The audience was jolted to an awareness that they were very much involved. "How do you, personally, view authority?" the speaker asked. 'Have you allowed the world's disrespect for authority to affect you?'

Authority Properly Viewed

"All in the universe, except Jehovah, are subject to someone," said the speaker. Jehovah is a God of order, and, if we are to please him, we must contribute to good order by proper respect for authority. How encouraging and needful such encouragement in our day!

The audience was helped to see that God's magnificent order of spirit creatures all work harmoniously together with their Creator. After that the conventioners were given a verbal view of the physical universe in perfect operation, all functioning according to God's laws.

But what about man? On earth God gave man His perfect law. Man, however, chose to rebel against the laws of God and the consequence has been the chaotic world of today. —Deut. 32:4, 5.

But what authority is there now worthy of man's respect? the speaker queried. We are interested in *now!* With assuring tones came the answer: A heavenly Kingdom government was established in 1914, and it is now ruling in the midst of its enemies.

This government, said the speaker; is composed of immortal creatures, namely, the resurrected Jesus Christ and his faithful anointed followers. The remnant of Christ's joint heirs who are still on earth have been given authority over all Christ's belongings. (Matt. 24: 45-47) Through this earthly authority, servants are appointed to positions of responsibility on earth to care for the needs of the people who have a love of righteousness. The arrangement is a loving one. It is evidence of God's care.

But how does God's arrangement work out in a practical way in the everyday life of a Christian today? What view, for example, should a Christian have of secular authority today?

God takes into consideration present secular authorities, the conventioners heard. Christians are to obey all laws, national and local, that do not conflict with God's law. The early Christian position was cited as precedent. (Acts 5:29) True, said the speaker, these worldly authorities will be destroyed at Armageddon, but the Christian is under obligation to show proper subjection to them now. Why? Because they provide valuable services of which Christians are beneficiaries. Therefore, taxes should be paid and laws obeyed.

Not Anarchists

Jehovah's witnesses are not anarchists, it was stressed. Never by word or deed will they lend support to those showing disrespect for authority. They stay out of the trouble areas, do not participate in "marches" or riots. In fact, rather than rebel against the authorities, they are commanded by God to pray concerning them, which they do. (1 Tim. 2:1-3) How timely such advice to Christians! How reassuring to world rulers in this hour of world rebellion!

Teachers, too, have the respect and appreciation of Christian parents and students. Other school authorities and educational arrangements are also to be respected, the conventioners heard. Christians need not join school-sponsored organizations, but can show appreciation for their problems. They can cooperate by getting their children to obey and make the best use of their time while in school. A brief demonstration illustrated how children can show respect to their teachers. How distinctly different the Christian is from the world at large!

Employers, too, should find Jehovah's witnesses the best of workers, not only because they are conscientious, do not steal or "loaf," but also because they as workers find joy in accomplishment and do all things as to their God Jehovah. The speaker encouraged the audience to master their secular jobs, become efficient and thereby maintain their own self-respect in a world that has little or none. God is magnified and glorified by such honest effort, they heard.

Right Viewpoint of Spiritual Authority

But before secular authority can be fully respected, one must first have the right viewpoint of spiritual authority, the conventioners were told. This begins in the home. All in the Christian family circle, for example, should recognize the principle of headship. The husband is head of his house, his wife, his family. Parents closely supervise the children. Bible verses, such as Ephesians 5:22-24; 6:1-4 and 1 Peter 3:1-6 were quoted in support. Wives were encouraged to cooperate fully with their husbands, for this makes for a happy family relationship.

This respect is carried over and refined in the Christian congregation where the servants are

shown proper respect. Appointments are viewed as coming by holy spirit. (Acts 20:28) The congregation recognizes this and fully cooperates, even as wives cooperate with husbands, husbands with Christ and Christ with God. Such an arrangement, when carried out, works for the good of all.

The speaker appealed to the audience to give evidence of their proper view of authority in these trying times. Jehovah God requires it. Disrespectful persons will not inherit the earth, but the respectful will. Those who embrace the Christian view of authority now are training themselves for life in the new system of things, where all authority will be exercised perfectly to the praise of God forevermore!

"Show Respect for Jehovah's Appointments"

Not entertainment, but instruction, was the purpose of the drama bearing the above title. David and King Saul, Abigail and Nabal, Jonathan, Abishai and Abiathar all sprang to life in the drama. And the entire program underscored the need for Jehovah's people to respect His appointments.

The convention atmosphere echoed with the voice of King Saul raging as if possessed of a demon, "I will yet pin David . . . yes, I will yet pin David even to the wall and rid my soul forever of this agony that is within me."

David, though hunted by Saul like an animal, did not strike back, even when opportunity afforded itself. "I shall not thrust out my hand against my lord, for he is the anointed of Jehovah," said David of Saul. —1 Sam. 24:10.

The Bible book of First Samuel came alive, and the lesson of respect for Jehovah's appointments was driven home in a telling way time and time again. One learns that, despite any personal feelings that one might have, no matter what the circumstance, Jehovah's appointments must be respected. How faith-strengthening, unifying and upbuilding such a call for oneness and support in these critical times!

An overseer or someone else in a position of responsibility in God's organization may commit a wrong, as King Saul did. But not to recognize the office that such one fills or the authority that he possesses by refusing to show respect or by opposing such one is to compound the wrong, not right it. Of course, under these circumstances, a Christian should not violate righteous principles nor join the wrongdoer in his rebellion. Wait on God to remove the rebellious one in his own way and time.

Though her husband scorned David, Abigail wisely respected Jehovah's anointed one

Women also were greatly benefited by the drama. They were shown how they, too, can show respect for Jehovah's appointments by imitating the wise course of Abigail, wife of Nabal. Abigail viewed the anointed David as an appointed servant of Jehovah, whom her husband disrespected. Even though Nabal was her husband, she could not condone his disrespectful actions, because he was opposing David, Jehovah's anointed. Abigail did not violate the principle of headship in this matter, because Nabal had come between her and her worship of God. One's duty is first to God.

Abigail showed her appreciation of Jehovah's appointments by giving David due respect and thus firmly established her relationship with Jehovah. By her wise course she saved her husband's life and her household as well. She also proved a blessing to David, because her generous and kind behavior had a calming effect on David and his warriors, preventing them from becoming bloodguilty before God.

The position Jehovah took was also clearly seen in that he punished Nabal and rewarded Abigail. Nabal died suddenly. Abigail then became David's wife. David's warm appreciation for her can be seen in that he considered her to be a gift from Jehovah.

The assembled audience could see how the principles of that drama of ancient times could be applied today in the Christian congregation. There are times in our daily worship, the participants related, when decisions are not easy to make. However, if we allow ourselves to be guided by Bible principles, primarily the principle that Jehovah makes the appointments and removes unworthy ones, then we can learn much in the way of long-suffering, putting up with one another in love and appreciation of Jehovah's way of doing things. We will not be prone to run ahead of God.

In the modern setting those in the audience were shown that wrong conclusions are reached when one does not have all the facts. Where true love exists and where there is trust in Jehovah's appointments, there is also no cause for opposition to any appointment originating with God.

Conventioners may remember and forget many details about the drama, but one point undoubtedly will outlive them all, namely, that respect for Jehovah's appointments must be shown regardless of the trying circumstance, as was exemplified in the lives of David and Abigail.

MISSIONARIES Are Here

Among the congregated throngs attending the "Peace on Earth" International Assembly are the missionaries who have graduated from Gilead School. From far-flung sections of the earth over 1,500 of them will be present at the various assembly cities. What has made this possible? Why, the generous contributions of their brothers around the world for the very purpose of paying the travel expenses of these full-time preachers.

At the New York assembly alone, 488 missionaries from seventy-seven lands plan to be on hand. Another 122 are planning to go to Vancouver, British Columbia, and 107 more to Los Angeles. Many others are attending at Atlanta, Buffalo, Pomona, Kansas City and Chicago. For just these assemblies in North America, over 980 will be present!

In addition, hundreds more have been assisted financially to attend the "Peace on Earth" assemblies in Europe—in London, Paris, Copenhagen, Nuremberg and Rome. Here they will see and be able again to fellowship briefly with dear relatives and friends until they return to their missionary assignments. To London alone, 182 missionaries from forty-four lands have planned to return for the assembly.

Many of these missionaries of Gilead School have spent fifteen, twenty or more years in their assignments. They have expended themselves fully in doing the will of God, spearheading the preaching work in many parts of the earth. Frequently they have seen just a small handful of interested persons in these places grow into a mighty throng of thousands of praisers of Jehovah. What a blessing to have them here in assembly with us!

A Missionary Grandmother

One of the 488 missionaries attending the New York city assembly is Gertrude Steele. When she learned the truth in the early 1920's she had three infant sons to rear. But as they grew older and entered school, she arranged to pioneer nine months of the year. Finally, when they were grown, she offered to be sent wherever she was needed.

After pioneering for some years in various places in the United States she was invited to attend Gilead School, and later was assigned to Puerto Rico. At the time there were but thirty-five Kingdom publishers and two congregations on the whole island.

"We often wondered," she observed recently, "how long it would take to get the first 1,000 publishers. Well, it took ten years. Then six years more for the second thousand, and four years for the third. But in the past four years we have grown to a peak of 5,247 publishers and eighty-eight congregations!" What a marvelous increase!

G. Steele, serving in Puerto Rico since 1948

But what about the future? Sister Steele notes: "With so much interest in God's Word we are not worrying about what 1975 will bring. Rather, we are concerned with how to help all these 5,000 see the urgency of helping yet additional thousands come over to Jehovah's side."

Such fervent missionary zeal, and her example in implanting this same zeal in her children (one of her sons has spent many years in the missionary field and is now branch servant in Korea), are certainly marvelous to behold. Just what is it that assists one to develop this zeal and keep it afire for so many years?

Sister Steele made this revealing comment: "One thing that has done this has been the habit during all these forty-seven years of making a quick reading of *The Watchtower* as soon as it arrives. There is nothing like it to keep one qualified to preach and teach and build up appreciation."

Making a Wise Choice

Returning from Brazil to attend the Atlanta assembly is Doris Thompson. Her nearly twenty years in that missionary assignment have been happy and richly rewarding. However, making a wise choice was necessary in order to realize these blessings.

At the age of seven Doris began working by herself in the ministry. She continued to progress, and a few years later was conducting Bible studies. But, at the same time, she was excelling in her schoolwork. Thus, she was faced with a choice on finishing high school—either of accepting a college scholarship or of pursuing as a career the full-time preaching work.

"The choice I made," she explains, "was a disappointment for my teachers (worldly advisers), but has been a happy one for me and my parents. I received my regular pioneer appointment in September 1944, almost a quarter of a century ago, and started out working in Chattanooga, my hometown. Later I went to Louisville, Kentucky, from where I was called to Gilead."

Sister Thompson's first assignment in Brazil in 1949 was in Rio de Janeiro. Later, in 1958, she was assigned to the city of Belém. At the time there were only sixty Kingdom publishers in the local congregation.

"Now we have five units," Sister Thompson observes, "and in April we had a report of 357 publishers! Also, congregations have been formed in areas outside the city as a result of the work by pioneers and publishers. One of these special pioneers is a young sister who was one of my first Bible students in Belém."

The Joy of Seeing It Grow

A special joy that missionaries have is in seeing persons with whom they have studied become publishers and, some, full-time pioneer ministers.

Consider the preaching work in Japan. When twenty-six Gilead graduates arrived in Japan in 1949 and 1950 there were less than 100 Kingdom publishers in the entire country. But now there is a peak of 7,284 publishers, with 1,632 of these sharing in the pioneer work this April! Many of the first missionaries to arrive are still busy, experiencing joy day by day as they see the number of Jehovah's praisers rapidly grow.

One of these missionaries, Gladys Gregory, related recently the type of experience that brings so much joy: "I started a Bible study with a young housewife whose husband, while doing part-time work, was continuing college postgraduate study in preparation for teaching. One day he was home and I happened to meet him. He said that one reason for his desire to continue his education was that there must be some social or political ideology which would be the answer to mankind's problems. Now, however, he was not so sure.

"I asked him if he had thought about a theocratic government, and then pointed out why only such a government with the needed power, yet incorruptible, could bring about a peaceful world. He was amazed and agreed that such a government would fill the bill, but, of course, he had never even considered such a thing. How about investigating the Bible to see whether that might be what you're looking for? It was! His plans to become a teacher were realized. He and his wife both became pioneer ministers and are joyfully teaching others about that theocratic government."

In West Africa, too, the increase in the number of praisers of Jehovah has been marvelous. Asuquo Abot Akpabio, a native Nigerian who received Gilead training in 1952, has been an

T. H. Sanderson, serving in India

eyewitness to this increase. While in New York city to attend the international assembly he observed:

"In September of 1947 the Society invited me to take up the Servant to the Brethren work (now called circuit work). I felt unqualified as did young Jeremiah, and so prayed to Jehovah for strength and direction. He has not failed me, for Jehovah has blessed the preaching work.

"I have had the pleasure of seeing the circuit grow from ten congregations to ten circuits. Back in 1947 at Calabar, there were 400 that turned up for the first assembly in my assignment. Early this year there was a district assembly at the same city and 10,709 listened to the public address. My heart was filled with joy and satisfaction to see Jehovah's blessing so manifest on the work done in this territory."

Overcoming Difficulties

There are frequently difficult problems and tests connected with missionary work. There is generally a new language to learn, a different climate, health problems, and so forth. What would be your reaction if you received a missionary assignment to India?

T. H. Sanderson, who has spent many years in that country, reminisces about his first thoughts. "I wondered if I could even survive three years in the assignment," he observed. "I thought what a blessing it would be to get a serious illness and thereby have a legitimate reason to leave the country. But time has changed my views.

"Not that I can say I have grown to like the continuous torrid heat, the hunger of the people, the depressing poverty that can be seen everywhere day after day. But what joy there is in seeing the spreading of God's Word in this land! It is like a bright light shining in a very, very dark place, releasing lovely people from the grasp of this stronghold of Babylon the Great!

"While it is true that most of our increase has come from nominal Christians, many sincere Hindus are accepting the truth. One of our most enthusiastic congregations is made up of publishers that have nearly all been Hindus. This April we had a 21-percent increase. Truly, who could be more happy right now than those in the missionary service?

"Persons sometimes ask me: 'Do you think that your health will continue to stand up?' Naturally we missionaries exercise proper care with our health, but beyond that we are not concerned with what may or may not happen as regards sickness. Now my health is good in India, but could I say that if I had remained in Australia? On a recent visit there I saw many sick people, so maybe I am better off where I am."

Setting Up the Assembly

Perhaps you have had guests over for an afternoon and evening. There was quite a bit involved in preparing for them, wasn't there? Just imagine, then, what is involved in preparing for the arrival of as many as 100,000 or more guests! And what if you had only one night to move into the facilities where you were going to entertain them?

This gives you some idea of the situation frequently faced by Jehovah's witnesses in setting up their large assemblies. The magnitude of the operation is difficult to conceive.

The Short Time Available

Consider, for example, the assembly in New York city, where as many as 100,000 persons may attend.

A New York Yankee baseball game was scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, July 6. Not until this was over, and the fans, ball players and park personnel left, could Jehovah's witnesses move into Yankee Stadium to set up their convention departments. This would allow only twelve to fourteen hours before assembly delegates were to begin arriving for their breakfast and the sessions that begin early in the morning.

In Chicago there will be even less time to move in, for Chicago and Kansas City are playing a doubleheader ball game on Sunday, July 20. And the first session of the assembly begins early the following morning.

Of course, if the ball games were rained out, this would allow more time to move in. When this possibility was mentioned to the General Manager of the Chicago White Sox, Ed Short, he unhesitatingly replied: "If anyone can arrange that, it would be you people, because you have the proper connections."

In London, too, only a short time will be available to move assembly departments into Wembley Stadium and get them operating. The Horse Show of the Year will be held in the Stadium immediately preceding the assembly. Not many hours later, tens of thousands of assembly delegates will arrive for the opening sessions early Tuesday morning, July 29.

The story is similar in Kansas City. It will be the morning of July 17 before the brothers have access to Municipal Stadium, and they must have everything ready for the opening of the assembly program the following day.

Occupancy of the 15,000-seat brand-new Coliseum at Vancouver, Canada, cannot be obtained until 6 o'clock Sunday morning, July 13, and the program begins at 9:45 that same morning! There will be a little more time, however, to move into the other facilities being used for the assembly in that city.

To get some idea of what is involved in setting up an assembly at all of these convention sites, try to view it from the standpoint of the convention organization before the assembly opens. As an example, consider the operation of moving into Yankee Stadium the night of July 6.

A Busy Night

It is planned that some thirty-five trucks will be poised for delivery of equipment as soon as the baseball crowd clears out on Sunday night.

First, huge tents must be brought in and set up on the parking lots. This involves unloading 65,000 pounds of tenting, sinking holes through the asphalt, driving by hand some 950 large stakes two feet into the hard earth, and finally raising these huge tents. No easy task indeed!

The erected tents are to cover 145,000 square feet of area, which amounts to 3⅓ acres. Here the Spanish and French delegates are to meet to listen to the program in their own languages and see Bible dramas enacted. Tents provide covering, too, for the cafeteria, dishwashing equipment and several refreshment stands.

During the night some 17,000 chairs must be trucked in and set up for use by the Spanish and French delegates. Also, trucks carrying some 1,200 plywood tabletops need to be unloaded. Most of these tops are eight feet by two feet in size and, all together, weigh some 34,000 pounds! Legs must then be attached to these tabletops, and about 700 tables are to be set up in the cafeteria. The rest go to refreshment stands and other assembly departments.

Perhaps one of the most difficult jobs is equipping and stocking the refreshment stands. There eventually are to be about seventy-nine of these serving food to delegates. What a rush against time to have most of them equipped and operating by morning! Wholesalers are to start bringing in foodstuffs around midnight. Included among items to be served at the various stands are hamburgers, hot dogs, hot pastrami sandwiches, soda, coffee, ice cream, fruit, fruit juices, and so forth.

Another crew will be busy setting up the loudspeakers—some 255 in all! Not only will there be English, French and Spanish programs, but individual sound systems must be hooked up for the fourteen other language programs as well. These are to be held in the stadium when the English program is not in session. All together, 48 loudspeakers will be used for those programs held in languages other than English.

Inside the stadium 70 loudspeakers are to carry the English program. But scores of others

are to be set up in the corridors, kitchen, cafeteria and in the various departments so all will be able to hear.

In addition, there are to be some forty closed-circuit television sets scattered among the different departments so that workers can both hear and see the program. Also, an intercom system is to be installed to provide communications between various departments. This means that, in all, more than three miles of wire is to be strung throughout the stadium to facilitate communications of one kind or another.

Still another big job that night is moving in and setting up the huge sixty-by-thirty-foot stage. It has been prefabricated, so that it can be loaded on trucks in sections, carried into the park, and assembled on the playing field around second base. The platform features a watchtower, some 30,000 artificial flowers—carnations, lilies, peonies, roses, magnolias, asters, and so forth—and a kidney-shaped pool about ten by fifteen feet in size.

There is to be much other construction going on throughout the night as well. A large canopy to cover the orchestra must be installed. In addition, many partitions need to be set up in various departments, extra toilet facilities installed, and even dressing areas constructed for use by actors in the Bible dramas. Also, a huge one-hundred-by-eleven-foot banner must be put up on the stadium's facing to advertise the public talk, "The Approaching Peace of a Thousand Years." Two other banners four feet by sixty feet will be located for observation by city bus riders and elevated train crowds.

Since Jehovah's witnesses last used the stadium it has received a new paint job inside and out. So it has a fine, clean appearance. Nevertheless, after the ball game it will no doubt be covered with litter left by the ball crowds. Therefore, a large crew of volunteer workers will be needed to clean the stadium to have it presentable for the assembly's opening.

Another busy place this night will be the Watchtower building at 77 Sands Street, the convention headquarters in New York. Equipment from forty-two circuits of Jehovah's witnesses is being brought here. It is checked in, labeled and inventoried. From here the trucks pick up the equipment for delivery to Yankee Stadium. All night long before the assembly they will shuttle back and forth to the stadium carrying supplies.

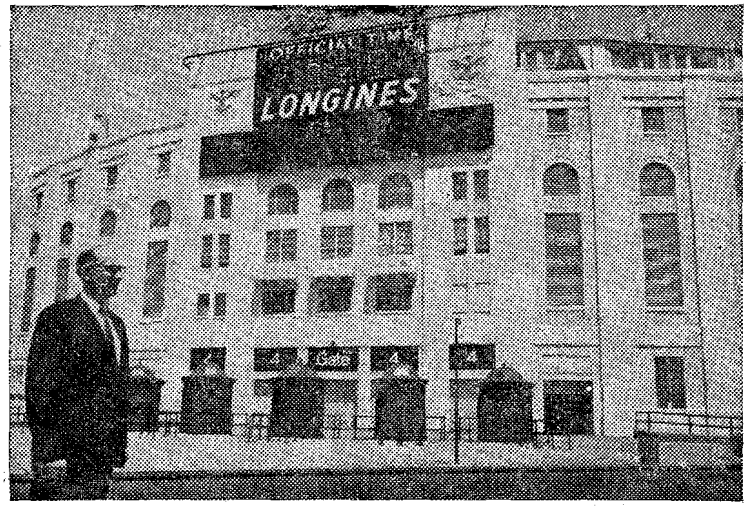
In the Chicago area, too, the convention trucking department has been busy collecting equipment from the various circuits of Jehovah's witnesses. But how can they possibly, on that final night, get everything moved into White Sox Park after the double-header ball game and before the sessions begin just a few hours later?

True, the task normally would be impossible. Yet, it will be done! A warehouse containing 7,000 square feet of space has been rented at a location only two blocks away from White Sox Park. The kitchen equipment and the platform will be set up in sections at this warehouse the way it will be at White Sox Ball Park. Then, when the double-header ends on Sunday night, the areas at the ball park will be marked and the kitchen equipment and the platform will be transported there in sections and merely set in their places. It will be much like moving prefabricated homes, which are made in one location, then transported to another and set in place.

Other problems are connected with moving into the Canadian assembly in Vancouver. However, customs officials at the border have shown cooperation about the transporting of equipment from the United States into Canada. In fact, one official even provided the convention manager with his private telephone number in the event that any trouble arises when the tractor trailers loaded with equipment arrive at the border. He said that he will be glad to come down, no matter what time of the day or night it is, to assist in making sure that the equipment arrives at the Stadium with the least amount of difficulty.

More than 250 volunteers with fifty trucks, besides tractors and forklifts, are readying themselves to receive and distribute the tons of equipment arriving at Vancouver from as far away as Winnipeg, Manitoba.

There can be no question about it! Setting up an assembly involves much planning, organization and effort. Yes, and it requires Jehovah's spirit and help to accomplish so much in such a short period of time. This spirit of God is what motivates the many, many thousands of volunteer workers who labor so zealously to prepare for the arrival of the convention delegates, their guests. Many of them will keep right on the job all night long to see that all the details in connection with setting up the assemblies are cared for.



J. Groh at Yankee Stadium to arrange for assembly operations

WHAT ARE YOU LIVING FOR?

Have you ever asked yourself, "What am I living for?" On introducing a symposium of discourses on this thought-provoking theme, the chairman observed: "It is an especially timely question in this day and age when men are 'lovers of themselves, lovers of money, . . . lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God.' "—2 Tim. 3:2-4.

"The world of mankind of today in general," he said, seeks "self-gratification and self-satisfaction. It has as its theme, 'Be good to yourself.' " This prevailing attitude requires that a Christian put up a hard fight for the faith. He needs continually to watch himself and examine his motives. This part of the program was designed to help persons make this self-appraisal.

Worldly Associations

In the first talk, "What Are You Living For?—Worldly Associations?" the speaker observed that there are godly associates and worldly ones. So he asked: "Which association will benefit you most as a Christian? Which one can be encouraging, upbuilding and faith-strengthening?"

It is true that worldly associations cannot be entirely avoided, since we are generally surrounded by workmates, business associates and classmates who are not Christians. The trouble is, however, situations arise where brothers feel that worldly associations are desirable.

For example, the speaker noted, a brother may have a secular business, and he may feel that it is necessary to entertain worldly persons and attend social functions with them. Or, dedicated Christians at times seek marriage mates in the world. Also, Christian youths sometimes share in sports at school and become involved with worldly associates. In addition, reading immoral literature, watching TV programs that feature violence and attending sexy movies can involve one in worldly associations.

What about all these worldly associations? They are dangerous, the speaker emphasized. In time they can cause spiritual values to be replaced by material ones.

The examples were cited of a person who sought to climb the ladder of material success, of a Christian youth who became involved in sports and of a sister who married a nonbeliever. No longer are these persons Christians, the speaker said. Their good habits were spoiled by worldly associations. —1 Cor. 15:33.

So be on guard, he urged. Recognize such association for what it is—*worldly*. And remember, 'Whoever wants to be a friend of the world is making himself an enemy of God.' (Jas. 4:4) Therefore, fellowship with members of the Christian congregation. Counteract loneliness by getting absorbed in spiritual activities. "Why live for worldly association that could alienate you from friendship with God?" the speaker asked. "Keep company with Jehovah God and be his companion for eternity."

Pleasures of Drink

The second speaker, handling the subject, "What Are You Living For?—The Pleasures of Drink?" acknowledged that the matter of drinking intoxicating beverages is a personal one. It is not condemned in the Bible, though overindulgence is. So the question is: "Are we *living* for this pleasure and longing day by day for the pleasure we get as a result of drinking alcoholic beverages?"

Alcoholic beverages can be very dangerous, the speaker stressed. Therefore, caution should be exercised in using them. The problem can arise, he said, that drinking becomes a crutch upon which a person leans, something that he cannot do without.

The speaker went on to relate truly shocking statistics that drove home to the audience the dangers of alcoholic beverages. In Sweden 5,000 persons die yearly of illnesses caused by alcohol. Also, 24 of 25 prostitutes in that land interviewed by a researcher admitted that they were under the influence of alcohol when they started as prostitutes.

In France some 22,500 persons die each year from cirrhosis of the liver and delirium tremens. Alcoholism in France ranks as the number three killer, after heart disease and cancer.

In the United States there are approximately three million alcoholics who spend some $7,500,000,000 annually on alcohol! And in Chile, 70 percent of all traffic accidents occur as a result of alcoholic intoxication.

No wonder, the speaker continued, that the Bible condemns drunkenness. (1 Cor. 5:11; 6:9, 10) It shows the stupidity of one who overindulges in alcoholic drink.—Prov. 23:29-35.

So we should examine ourselves. "Do you find that you desire a drink the first thing in the morning?" the speaker asked. "Do you find your pleasure in living is always to have intoxicating liquor available, whether alone or with others? . . . Do you find that your only friends are those who share your attitude about drinking and that your social gatherings include only those who will drink with you? . . . Do you view your Christian brothers who abstain as somewhat stuffy, or overly righteous?"

If this is the case, the speaker said, you are either getting into difficulty or you are already in difficulty. You are finding that your pleasure in life is in drinking intoxicating beverages. "It is time for a change in your thinking and in your habits," he said.

In conclusion, he pointed his audience to the Bible's directive, urging them to follow the inspired advice: "Therefore, whether you are eating or drinking or doing anything else, do all things for God's glory."—1 Cor. 10:31.

Toying with Sexual Immorality

The third part of the symposium was entitled: "What Are You Living For?—Opportunities to Toy with Sexual Immorality?" What is toying with sexual immorality?

'To toy,' the speaker explained, 'means to amuse oneself, as with a plaything. So toying with sexual immorality is playing with it without actually committing fornication or adultery. It is loose conduct.'

In the Bible loose conduct is condemned, the speaker stressed. It is wicked. He read the scripture at Galatians 5:19. Here, he noted, a distinction is made between loose conduct and fornication. But both are shown to be activities that bar one from everlasting life. Therefore, if habitually practiced, loose conduct is a ground for disfellowshiping from the Christian congregation.

How does toying with sexual immorality start? The speaker observed that there are many factors that can lead to it. For example, he explained, watching immoral movies, reading sexy books, looking at pornographic literature or listening to obscene jokes.

Also, he said, dating or "going steady" when too young to marry can lead to loose conduct. So can certain types of dancing, especially when there is close body contact. Another thing that can lead to loose conduct is flirting or putting one's arms around a person of the opposite sex other than one's marriage mate.

Toying with sexual immorality, the speaker emphasized, can bring upon one tremendous trouble and grief. He cited the example of a couple, both dedicated Christians, who started dating. In time they began petting, and eventually they started toying with each other naked. They refrained from fornication, but she became distressed, nervous and irritable. She confessed their wrongdoing, and both of them were put on probation.

He cited another example of a dedicated youth who slept in a bed with a worldly boy, a relative. They began toying with each other, and this led to sodomy. He became a habitual sodomite and had to be disfellowshiped from the Christian congregation.

How vital it is therefore, the speaker stressed, that circumstances be avoided that might lead one into loose conduct!

From offstage the voice of a youth was heard: "But Dad, I'm 16, and she is in the truth. Why can't I borrow the car and take her to the drive-in theater Saturday night? I'm not getting serious about her. And besides, all the other kids in school have been dating for a couple of years already. What's wrong with one date?"

"What about this teen-ager's question?" the speaker asked. He went on to show that dating is not recreation, like playing ball. It properly should be done with marriage in view. Therefore, if one is too young to marry, or is not planning to marry, why date?

The speaker concluded by exhorting the audience to avoid living for opportunities to toy with sexual immorality. Rather, keep busy in Jehovah's service, he said, and receive his reward.

Fornication and Adultery

The next part of the symposium, "What Are You Living For?—Illicit Satisfaction of Fornication and Adultery?" drove home to the audience the dangers in these "last days" of falling into immorality.

'The present system ignores Jehovah's standards and does not view fornication or adultery as illicit, or unlawful,' the speaker said. 'Conditions are just like they were prior to the Noachian flood.' (Gen. 6:5-8, 11, 12) And, he added, they will continue to become worse as we get closer to Armageddon.

So there is a vital need for us all to be on guard. To emphasize this he pointed to the fact that in the United States alone 16,199 persons had been disfellowshiped for fornication and adultery between 1952 and 1968. This does not mean that the organization is immoral. Not at all. Rather, the organization advocates morality and expels the comparatively few unrepentant wrongdoers.

How does immorality occur? Frequently, the speaker observed, a couple meet alone to watch a suggestive TV show, or sit in a parked car. They hold hands, one thing leads to another, and soon they are engaged in heavy petting. Passions are aroused, control is lost, and fornication results. (Prov. 7:6-27) What heartache this can lead to! The speaker urged persons not to continue in such activity until caught, but to confess wrongdoing and seek help from Jehovah's organization.

A remarkable fact was then drawn to the audience's attention: More persons were disfellowshiped for adultery over the years than for fornication—8,861 compared to 7,338. The speaker then pointedly asked: 'Are you giving the marital dues to your mate?' He explained that, according to some letters received by the Society, persons have withheld these sexual dues because they *wanted* their mate to commit adultery. Such persons are not guiltless before Jehovah God.

If anyone makes improper advances toward you, the speaker advised, tell that one pointedly that you want Jehovah's approval, not illicit satisfaction.

Living for God's New Order

In the fifth and final portion of the symposium, "What Are You Living For?—Life in God's New Order?" the speaker noted that it is clear what we should not live for.

Some may feel, however, that by living clean, upright lives they are missing out on something. This is not so, the speaker stressed. 'Christian living brings true joy and happiness in living,' he said. What is more, one is spared the awful pain and sorrow that come to those who disregard God's Word and requirements for life.

The speaker then described the blessings that God holds out to those who serve him. Think of

it! Eternal life in perfect health and happiness! No more sin to war in one's body against the mind and heart. Perfect control of one's faculties. Yes, provisions to satisfy every normal and proper desire.

However, to enjoy all of this and much more, the speaker noted, we must live upright, moral lives. We cannot be led astray. Are not eternal life and endless blessings from God worth making every effort to do His will? Are they not worth even cutting out of our life what may be as dear to us as an eye or hand if this interferes with our obeying God's requirements? the speaker asked. Most certainly! —Matt. 5:29, 30; 1 Cor. 9:24-27.

To obtain the prize of life in God's new order, the speaker urged, prove your sincerity by learning the divine law now and living by it. Choose upright, moral associates, those who will be in the New Order. Wholeheartedly share in the ministry, really making God's service *fill* your life.

Remember, he concluded, each one will reap as he has sown. If you sow to the flesh, you will reap death. If you sow to the spirit, eternal life in God's new order will be your reward!

Unity was restored to congregation in Corinth when needed counsel was given by the apostle Paul

Overseers, Carry On as Men

The hour-and-three-quarters, five-part symposium was followed by a forty-minute program that was designed to encourage and strengthen overseers to care for problems that at times may arise.

In a brief opening talk the chairman noted the organization's progress in purity of doctrine and practice. In 1938, he said, theocratic procedure was fully established. Then, in the early 1950's, *The Watchtower* for the first time dealt extensively with the matter of a clean organization. It set forth the principles and the methods by which to keep the organization clean.

Since that time, the chairman observed, the increase has been phenomenal. And many, many more thousands are leaving false religion and flocking into Jehovah's organization. This places a heavy responsibility upon appointed overseers and their assistants to keep the congregations morally and spiritually clean and in God's favor.

As a result, it was noted, an overseer sometimes becomes discouraged and downhearted when confronted by a number of problems. "But, brothers, this should not be our attitude," the chairman said. To illustrate the matter, he invited the audience to look in on a meeting of the congregation servants with the circuit servant and district servant at a circuit assembly.

During this meeting, portrayed on stage, the attention of the congregation overseer, Brother Downhearted, was directed by the district servant to the Christian congregation at Corinth. It was shown that the apostle Paul had many problems to deal with in that congregation, including dissensions, sexual immorality, brothers having lawsuits against one another, failure to recognize Christian headship, eating meats sacrificed to idols, improper partaking of the Lord's evening meal, disputes about the resurrection, and so forth.

The district servant then suggested looking in on a first-century setting. So, as the modern-day overseers watched, persons portraying members of the early Corinthian congregation were observed discussing some of these matters causing trouble in the congregation.

For example, one Corinthian brother was heard to say: "Well, this case of Clopas here in our congregation. It's disgusting! To think, he's taken his own father's wife and he's living with her."

However, another brother in the congregation, reasoning improperly, responded: "It just shows how great our Christian freedom is."

Sharply differing opinions also were expressed over other matters, such as the propriety of buying meat from a market that obtained its meat from a pagan temple.

The apostle Paul many miles away heard about these problems, and he wrote the congregation the letter of First Corinthians. The next scene showed the fine response among these Corinthian brothers to this letter. They accepted the divine counsel and responded to it.

After seeing this portrayal of the problems existing in the first-century Corinthian congregation and how they were handled, Brother Downhearted was strengthened. He could see that they had many more problems than he did in his own congregation. Yet Paul did not become discouraged by them. He handled them with trust in Jehovah God.

Really, what practical, upbuilding information this was for the benefit of modern-day overseers! It truly was encouragement for them to carry on as men.

Branch Servants Assemble

During the first week in June branch servants and their assistants began arriving at Brooklyn Bethel from the far-flung parts of the earth. On June 6 alone over fifty of them landed at Kennedy International Airport. In time, 133 representatives were on hand from over 90 branches for the beginning of a special four-week course of instruction on June 9.

They had come from all continents and many islands of the seas. Those from such places as India, Thailand, Pakistan, Ceylon, Indonesia and Singapore traveled halfway around the globe to be present. Others had come from the distant reaches of the Southern Hemisphere—Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, Chile and South Africa. In all, they had traveled a combined total of nearly three-quarters of a million miles!

What a happy reunion it was for these brothers to assemble again at headquarters! Many of them had been present for a similar instruction program prior to the 1958 Divine Will International Assembly. Also, the majority had attended one of the ten-month Gilead courses at headquarters in the early 1960's. So there were many acquaintances to renew, as well as expanded facilities of the factory and home to examine.

The school opened on Monday morning, June 9, with Brother Knorr's talk on the subject "Qualifications and Responsibilities of Branch Servants." In it he explained that the purpose of the course was to equip those present to care for the spiritual needs of the "sheep" in their countries. This was followed by the discussion "Older Men Who Preside in a Right Way."

In the course of the four weeks practically every aspect of work in connection with operating a branch and facilitating the preaching work was considered. For example, on the first day George Couch, the Brooklyn Bethel Home Servant, discussed housekeeping, laundry, purchasing, maintenance, cost of meals, and so forth. This was followed by a tour of the Bethel homes.

During the remainder of the first week, headquarters personnel gave helpful suggestions on handling mail, checking subscriptions, corresponding with circuit and district servants, keeping magazine accounts, caring for regular and vacation pioneer applications, and so forth. Members of the writing department gave suggestions on answering branch correspondence. And Brother Knorr talked on where to print magazines, mailing costs and the cost of subscriptions.

The second week was a duplication of the week-long course provided in May for all circuit and district servants in the United States. The branch servants were asked to take careful notes on this instructive program, especially if they wished to institute this program in their own country when they return.

During the third week an entire day was devoted to considering zone servants' visits. Another day was spent discussing missionary service and special pioneer work. And on still another day suggestions were considered on developing good programs for congregation meetings and for circuit and district assemblies.

Early in the final week concentration was placed on coverage of territory, and especially preaching the good news under difficult conditions. Finally, on July 4, Brother Knorr spoke on the subject "What Lies Ahead" and offered concluding comments. He urged the servants to put into operation the suggestions given at these meetings, and encouraged all to build up the brothers spiritually to accomplish the work yet to be done.

The program was greatly appreciated by the branch servants and their assistants. "What I liked about the course," observed Charles Eisenhower, branch servant of Argentina, "was the emphasis placed upon getting the Kingdom message preached. It was repeatedly stressed that the work in the branch offices simply contributes to this objective."

Various ones also commented on the note of urgency sounded. The branch servant of Curaçao, Russell Yeatts, pointed to Brother Knorr's comment that 1975 simply marks what may be 6,000 years since Adam's creation. But it does not necessarily mean the end of this system will come by then, he said. Therefore, we should not and will not slow down or stop planning for further expansion of the preaching work.

Branch servants and missionaries leaving Belgium on chartered flight to New York

Pursuing Peace in MALAWI *and* ZAMBIA

Early on the first day of the assembly it was a pleasure to hear about the faithfulness of our brothers in Malawi and Zambia.

In Malawi the government banned the work of Jehovah's witnesses in October 1967. A wave of terrorism followed.

It was claimed by the Minister of Transport that Jehovah's witnesses would not pay taxes. And the Attorney General and Secretary to the President said that Jehovah's witnesses showed antipathy toward self-help projects in the country. But what are the facts?

The speaker explained: "Jehovah's witnesses have always paid their taxes in Malawi. When the government was asked to give instances of those who had not paid their taxes they were unable to do so. Also, a report received from the brothers in Malawi listed over 500 examples of various self-help schemes that Jehovah's witnesses have assisted on over the past five or six years, building schools, post offices, roads, helping on new dispensaries, and even building bridges. So none of these accusations were true."

"The real truth of the matter," the speaker continued, "was that Jehovah's witnesses were being persecuted for refusing to buy political party cards." In one instance when two brothers refused to buy these cards, he said, "they were both literally chopped to death with an ax."

Describing recent opposition, the speaker said: "In November 1968, at the villages of Garnett and Mambala, some sisters were tied, stripped and raped because they had no party cards."

Political elements in Malawi certainly are not pursuing peace toward Jehovah's witnesses. But what about the response of Jehovah's witnesses? The assembly delegate reported:

"Despite all this maltreatment Jehovah's witnesses in Malawi are pursuing peace with their brothers and with their neighbors in Malawi. Not one has been arrested for retaliating or taking the law into his own hands. The brothers in Malawi are standing firm for the good news."

It was explained that the Society has kept the congregations supplied with copies of *The Watchtower*, and visits by the circuit servants are continuing. Also, material provisions were contributed by brothers around the world to the amount of $98,400, and this was used to purchase hundreds of thousands of pounds of foodstuffs and clothing for the Malawian brothers.

What about conditions in Zambia? "Opposition began to build," the speaker explained, "due to the firm stand by young Christians in school who refused to sing the national anthem and salute the national flag. As many as 5,700 were expelled from school for this reason." Further persecution was sparked by the refusal of Jehovah's witnesses to take part in political elections or buy political party cards. Recent reports indicate that as many as 100 Kingdom Halls have been burned and close to 1,000 houses of the brothers destroyed.

Have the brothers in Zambia pursued peace under these circumstances? The speaker reported: "Jehovah's witnesses have not retaliated under these attacks nor have any of them been arrested for taking the law into their own hands. This has been so outstanding that the commanding officer in one of the troubled areas made the statement: 'As far as peacefulness is concerned, Jehovah's witnesses are outstanding.' "

What a fine example our brothers in Zambia are setting! And how Jehovah's blessing has been upon them! "In spite of the opposition and pressures," observed the speaker, "a new peak of 44,653 publishers was reached in April, a 20-percent increase over last year's average. This means there is now one witness to every 92 of the population of Zambia."

Growth in Face of Obstacles

In a number of countries there are obstacles of one kind or another to carrying on the preaching work. Yet it is marvelous how, with the help of Jehovah's spirit, these are overcome, and the growth in Kingdom publishers moves ahead unchecked.

"What would your personal reaction be if the Christian society of Jehovah's witnesses were denied legal recognition by your government, and if Kingdom Halls—for publicly praising God by word and song—were not permitted?" This is the situation in Spain, noted an assembly delegate. Nevertheless, the number of Kingdom publishers has grown from less than a dozen following the second world war to 8,255 fearless Kingdom preachers now praising Jehovah in Spain!

What a close parallel to the rapid growth of the early Christian congregation in the face of obstacles! The assembly delegate drew attention to this, saying: "Just like Jesus' apostles when the authorities tried to impede their ministry, Spain's publishers have replied: 'As for us, we cannot stop speaking about the things we have seen and heard.'

"For this reason, 13,620 studies are presently being conducted with persons interested in the Bible's message. Packed meetings held on a small scale in private homes average an attendance of 140 percent in relation to the number of publishers. And attendance at the Memorial of the Lord's death reached 21,249."

The obstacles faced in Portugal are similar, yet the growth enjoyed has been as marvelous as in neighboring Spain. "In Portugal there are no Kingdom Halls," the delegate representing that country explained. "There are no large gatherings for cir-

cuit assemblies and association. But the work goes on unhindered. Jehovah's spirit is equal to any situation."

Giving an idea of the marvelous growth in Kingdom publishers, the delegate said: "Portugal has been thrilled to report a new publisher peak every month of this service year. In April we had an extraordinary report of 40-percent increase over last year. Now there are 6,037 Kingdom publishers in Portugal. But that's not all. There was a new peak of 8,369 Bible studies this year. What a wonderful harvest lies before us!"

To illustrate the changing attitudes of persons in Portugal, the experience was related of a very opposed lady who told two of our sisters: "I'm a Roman Catholic and your visit is an insult. I'm telling you right now that I'm going to phone the police station across the road and ask them to come and pick you up." The door was slammed, and before the sisters could leave the apartment, the police were there to arrest them.

Later, however, this Catholic lady was deeply shaken by things occurring within the church. Finally, she decided to invite into the home the next Witness that called. Shortly after, two different sisters called on her. A home Bible study was started. In a matter of several months, the lady symbolized her dedication to Jehovah by water baptism. How thrilled she was to have present on this occasion the two sisters whom she previously had caused to be arrested!

When we hear of Yugoslavia we perhaps think of Communist control and the Iron Curtain. However, explained an assembly delegate, "Yugoslavia does indeed make an exception in the Communist world. Our brothers there enjoy a considerable freedom."

"It is true," the speaker continued, 'we cannot work from house to house, but nonetheless the brothers are very active. They put in just as many hours in the service as do the brothers in Western countries. They have their own Kingdom Halls in many places where they can meet freely. They also give public lectures the same as in other countries. And for some time we have been showing two films of the Society in dozens of places throughout Yugoslavia.'

A high point of the past service year was when 1,800 brothers from Yugoslavia attended a district assembly in Austria. However, even more of them will attend the assembly in Nuremberg in August 1969. There sessions will be held in both Croatian and Slovenian for their benefit.

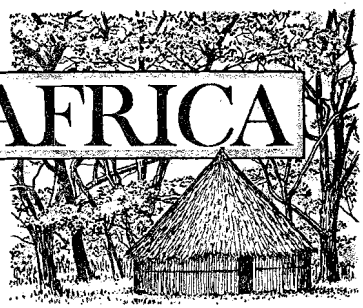
What about the preaching of the good news in Greece? 'It is carried out with great zeal and with endurance,' the assembly delegate reported. Is it an easy task? "Hardly!" was the response. Are there obstacles? "Many!" was the answer. Especially is there opposition by the clergy. Can assemblies be held? "No!" What about congregation meetings? "Oh, yes," the delegate answered again, "but in small groups and in limited numbers!"

Yet, despite the obstacles faced in doing the preaching work in Greece, the "sheep" are being gathered. "Here is what the figures show," the delegate explained, "1950, total publishers 2,676; 1960, total publishers 7,337; 1969, April peak of publishers 13,194!"

In Turkey, too, there are obstacles. Perhaps the greatest one is the fact that 99 percent of the population is Moslem. "Preaching to a Moslem is not easy," it was explained, "because he considers the Koran as the last revelation of God, and therefore superior to the Bible. So the big question has always been: Would a Moslem ever accept the truth?"

Happily, the answer is, Yes! For today in Turkey there are more than 100 publishers who were formerly Moslems.

Expansion in WEST AFRICA



There are now 87,919 of Jehovah's witnesses in just ten countries of West Africa. An indication of the impact of the Kingdom message on the people is seen in this year's Memorial attendance for these countries —201,155. So there are fine prospects for even further expansion in West Africa.

In Sierra Leone Jehovah's witnesses are well known. During a group discussion of the growth in West Africa, it was reported: 'It's not unusual as you walk down the street in Freetown, the country's capital, to be stopped and asked if you have any new books. The *New World Translation* is found in practically every home and frequently we even find worldly people reading and discussing the day's text from the *Yearbook*.'

When the question was raised as to whether persons are really absorbing the spiritual food found in the literature, the speaker answered:

"Well, when you find hundreds of people walking through the African bush ten to fifteen miles to attend a congregational meeting, isn't that an indication that folks are really appreciating the Society's publications? That's what is happening in many parts of the country. In fact, our attendance at the *Watchtower* study in relation to the total publishers in Sierra Leone is now 155 percent."

The eagerness of new ones to learn is illustrated by the experience of the householder who desired a personal copy of a *Truth* book to study. Since supplies of these were exhausted, explained the speaker, the publisher suggested that if she really desired a copy she might go from house to house and locate one. This is exactly what the householder did, finally finding a person who was willing to part with a copy, which she purchased for herself.

In Ghana, an assembly delegate reported, a large Protestant agency asked thousands of persons throughout the country: "What religious magazines have you read in the last four weeks?" It came as quite a shock to them to find that more people in Ghana read *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* than those who read any other religious magazine. In fact, it was discovered that over 40 percent of all religious magazines distributed in the country are *The Watchtower* and *Awake!*

This moved the agency to write in its official two-volume report: 'This represents a challenge. It is a pity our church members cannot exhibit the same zeal as Jehovah's witnesses in distributing religious literature.'

Thus, it was reported: "Everywhere one turns in Ghana the impact of Jehovah's witnesses can be felt and thousands have been flooding into our Kingdom Halls. In April we had a 22-percent increase. We are now 12,678 strong and still moving vigorously forward."

Near Ghana is Dahomey, where the number of publishers has doubled in the past six years. Fetish priests have opposed the preaching of Jehovah's witnesses. They caused so much disturbance, even threatening bloodshed, that the Government found it necessary to arrange a meeting at which both fetish priests and representatives of Jehovah's witnesses appeared before them. The district governor asked the priests: "Why are you so much against Jehovah's witnesses but you are not against the other religions here?"

The priests answered: "Because when people become Jehovah's witnesses they throw away their fetish gods and refuse to practice our religion with us. They separate from us. None of the other religions do this."

Later, even the governor said to one of the representatives of Jehovah's witnesses: "We hope you will convert all these people. Then we will have peace!"

How thrilling the report was concerning the expansion in the next country, Nigeria! Practically everyone in the world is acquainted with the civil war raging there between Nigerian and Biafran forces. Yet, during all this trouble, the number of Kingdom publishers has increased in Nigeria by about 20,000 since the trouble started. A delegate reported how the war has affected our brothers in Nigeria:

"Naturally, some have been killed and thousands have lost their homes and possessions, but in general Jehovah has marvelously protected the brothers. Our brothers remain loyal, united, and maintain strict neutrality regardless of their tribe or where they happen to live. Our neutral stand is known by the highest officials on both sides. As a result people can see the difference between the neutrality of Jehovah's witnesses, compared with the meddling and political involvement of Christendom's clergy. Multitudes are turning to us because they see that we alone have the message of peace and hope."

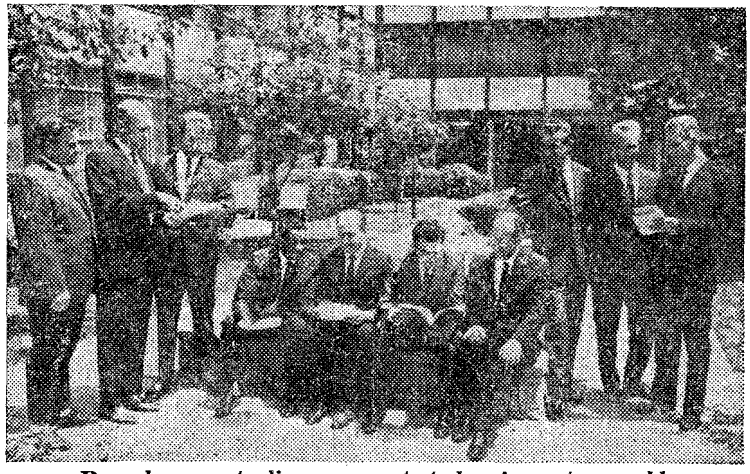
It was also noted that in April a peak of 50,590 publishers was reached, and that 109,370 attended the Memorial. And this does not include the report from Biafra. Actually only limited information is received from the publishers there. The assembly delegate made these interesting comments about them:

"There are thousands of Witnesses living in refugee camps and hiding in the forests, but they are preaching. Somehow they manage to hold the meetings, even circuit assemblies at which they baptize many new ones. They greatly appreciate the food you sent to them to relieve their sufferings. More than seven thousand report field service regularly. They were so thrilled to have 12,798 attend the Memorial over there. Here is a message from them: 'We are united with you in worship. Pray for us as we do for you. We are longing for the time when we shall be able to meet together again.'"

Farther down the Atlantic coast of West Africa is Cameroun. Here the expansion of the Kingdom work is truly marvelous. In Douala, the largest city, which has a population of 150,000, there are 2,500 brothers grouped into 32 congregations. One out of every 60 persons is a Witness for Jehovah in the city of Douala! Can you imagine the effect of having so many brothers so closely packed together?

The assembly delegate reported about this: "Being in such close contact with the Witnesses, we find that the daily vocabulary of worldly people is beginning to include theocratic expressions. We are having an impact on their language. For example, a bank teller, who is not a Witness, addresses me as 'Brother,' and asks how the 'brothers' are at the branch office. . . .

"Just recently, while buying food at the market from a Witness that sells there, a man next to him said to me: 'Do you only buy from your brother? Couldn't you also buy from us *Babylonians* sometimes?'"



Branch servants discuss reports to be given at assembly

The Islands

Are Hearing the Good News

Revelation, a part of the inspired good news, was written on an island called Patmos. And the early Christians preached the good news on many islands, such as Cyprus, Sicily and Malta. Today, too, the people on ever so many islands are hearing the good news.

A speaker representing Puerto Rico told that the past April saw a 22-percent increase, with 5,247 publishers in the field. Among those hearing the good news is a man who came to the branch office and said: "I have come to a crisis in my life and can see that there is nothing in the Church. I am an Episcopalian priest and have already sent in my resignation to the Bishop. The only thing that makes sense to me and that gives me hope is the *Watchtower* magazine." He subscribed for the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines and obtained the *Truth* book. In a few days he returned and said he had read the book and wanted the *'Impossible to Lie'* and the *Life Everlasting* books.

A report from Guadeloupe told of the fine impression Jehovah's people are making on outsiders. When needing some large construction equipment for building their Kingdom Hall the brothers went to a contractor. He not only loaned the equipment free of charge but added: "I tell you, if everybody in Guadeloupe could be one of Jehovah's witnesses, we would not know all the troubles we have now."

The brother speaking for Barbados also called attention to the good name Jehovah's witnesses have there. When arranging a charter aircraft to bring 108 of the 1,200 publishers to the New York assembly, there was the problem of getting visitors' visas for all the brothers. These can be difficult to obtain because so many do not return when their visa expires, but illegally remain in the States. However, the American Embassy freely issued visas to all the brothers attending the assembly—the first time this was ever done.

The report from Trinidad told that as far back as 1919 there were 214 attending the Memorial in the capital, Port of Spain. Now there are more than 2,000 causing the truth to be heard there, a ratio of one to every 450 of the population.

The good news is also being heard in Jamaica. There was such a demand for the *Evolution* and *Truth* books on this island that publishers were loaning out their own copies and parents were placing their own children's copies with interested persons. Jamaica has one publisher to every 350 persons, for a total of 5,743 publishers, and more than 10,000 heard the good news at the Memorial.

"A spiritual paradise" is the way the speaker representing the Netherlands Antilles described the condition of the Witnesses in the A, B, C islands, Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao, located off the coast of Venezuela. These islands have been in the news lately because of the rioting, looting and burning on the island of Curaçao, even the bishop's house being burned down. In one town so few people at times come for mass that the priest sends word that he is too tired to say mass. But while the churches are getting empty the Kingdom Halls are overflowing with people.

An island from a far different part of the world, Okinawa, was also heard from. To what extent this island is hearing the good news can be seen from the fact that, while in 1951 there were but 5 publishers on the island, this April they had a peak of 372, a 29-percent increase over last year's average. And there were 827 present at the Memorial, two and a half times their total publishers.

In spite of certain obstacles the good news is being heard in Cuba by ever more persons. True, many of the Kingdom Halls have been closed, and in one province only ten halls are open for 200 congregations. But in Havana there are 40 Kingdom Halls where meetings are freely held, and the branch office continues to operate there. In one month as many as 2,000 shared in the vacation pioneer work.

Obtaining literature, it was reported, is the real problem, as it cannot be sent into Cuba by mail in quantity. Some receive individual copies, which they gladly share with others. On one occasion, with the help of a friendly official, it was even possible to print chapters of the *Truth* book on Communist presses. But now, for the most part, brothers have to copy the material by hand or by typewriter.

The good news is also being heard by increasing numbers in the Dominican Republic, where for so long the work was under ban. But because of maintaining their neutrality the brothers are enjoying great freedom today and the work is moving ahead rapidly. In 1964 there was a peak of 1,450 publishers, and now, just five years later, a peak of 3,052.

From the report given about the preaching work in Haiti, it is obvious that the good news is being heard there too. This is especially apparent from the meeting attendance, which is usually from three to four times the number of publishers. In one congregation with 10 publishers, it was reported, the average public meeting attendance is more than 100, and for the circuit servant's public talk 400 were present! One Catholic priest, from Limonade, said to his flock: "Do you want to know what genuine Christianity is? I am sincere enough to tell you. Exactly as Jehovah's witnesses are doing, yes, this is really true Christianity." He too, had heard the good news!

THE INDEPENDENT ONE HAS GRIEF

Well has Jesus' parable of the prodigal son been termed the finest short story ever told. This heartwarming parable came to life in the drama "Thorns and Traps Are in the Way of the Independent One." On the one hand, this drama underscored the folly of those who pursue an independent course and, on the other hand, it showed how mature Christians can help recover those who take such an independent course.

The first scene opened showing Mr. and Mrs. Waywardson, the independent ones who had started studying with Jehovah's witnesses some twenty years ago, but only for a short period of time. Though now prosperous, they were very unhappy. There was complaining about taxes, about the demands of union employees and about other business problems. "I feel like I'm caught in a trap," Mr. Waywardson said. The course of materialism had not brought them joy.

Then the doorbell rang, and who should be calling but Mr. and Mrs. Strongheart, whom they had not seen in years! They also had started to study with the Witnesses twenty years ago but had continued on to dedication and spiritual maturity. Now active in the circuit work, they were very happy. In the course of their conversation Mr. Strongheart endeavored to revive the interest of the Waywardsons in a study of God's Word. He noted that there was an analogy between their course and that of the prodigal son of Jesus' parable.

Prodigal Son Parable

Scenes two to four presented the parable of the prodigal son in Biblical costumes. Scene Two strikingly portrayed the difference between two sons of a certain man. The older was happy and contented to work for his father, but the independent younger son chafed at his father's supervision. Selfish and self-willed, he wanted to leave home. Remonstrances by his older brother, his father and by a faithful hired servant were all in vain. Since he was determined to go his independent way, his father counseled him and then granted him his request for his share of the family inheritance.

Scene Three forcefully yet sympathetically presented the miserable and wretched condition into which the independent younger son had come. Having spent all his money in loose living and there being a famine in the land, he was driven to caring for pigs and subsisting on the carob pods that the pigs ate. Greatly bemoaning his lot, he came to his senses, decided to return to his father, beg his forgiveness and offer to work for him as a hired laborer.

Scene Four showed the loving father first receiving bad news regarding his son and then seeing him in the distance returning. Upon the son's arrival the father welcomed him with open arms and ordered a feast to be prepared to celebrate his return. The older son heard about this and resented all this welcoming of his wayward independent brother. The scene ended with the father pleading with the older son to join in the festivities.

Benefiting from the Parable

Scene Five reverted to the modern setting, with Will Strongheart explaining the parable. He showed that the two sons pictured two groups of people: the older son, those of the anointed with heavenly hopes; the younger son, those who did not appreciate spiritual things but independently wanted to have their own way. This way of independence was bound to come to grief, even as Proverbs 22:5 puts it: "Thorns and traps are in the way of the crooked one." There just is no escaping the outworking of Bible principles!

But now, Will Strongheart pointed out, God, as indicated at Revelation 3:17 and Malachi 3:7, is calling on these to become aware of their spiritually wretched condition and to return to Him. All this was shown to apply to the situation in which the Waywardsons found themselves. This counsel proved to be clear and convincing and struck a responsive chord in the Waywardsons, who decided to return to God's organization and never again "doubt Jehovah's love and mercy," as Mr. Waywardson put it.

The fact that the father of the prodigal went out to meet the repentant one with open arms has a significance for us who rejoice to be slaves of the Most High. We, too, can go out to those of this class, even search them out, and extend to them an offer of warm fellowship within the congregation of God.

Never Too Busy to Pray

Previous to this drama's presentation the audience heard the Bible talk, "Never Too Busy to Pray." It was a most timely discussion in view of the importance of prayer and the tendency to neglect it because of the modern rush of things. The speaker stressed its importance in keeping spiritually alive and avoiding temptations. He also told of the need to teach others to pray and how to go about it, the necessity of finding time each day for prayer and that prayer aids Christians.

The speaker emphasized that there are great tests of faith that each one must face. Some of those tests are part of our daily lives now; others are yet to come. Prayer can help us to be overcomers. Jehovah hears the prayers of his servants.

"Ministering in a Fine Manner"

This talk immediately followed. In it the speaker pointed out that ministering in a fine manner includes proper conduct, neat personal appearance, presentable literature and keeping an accurate record. He especially stressed the need of being mentally and spiritually prepared; for example, being well prepared to refer to Bible texts and specific paragraphs in literature that will arrest attention. In conclusion he noted the importance of right motives if one hopes to have a fruitful ministry.

MAMMOTH SEARCH FOR ROOMS

"You know, I wouldn't have anybody but Jehovah's witnesses in my home," exclaimed an eighty-one-year-old nurse in Buffalo, N.Y. Then she recalled the times when Witnesses stayed with her in the past: "Why, when they left, it felt like the angels had left!"

Similar rewarding experiences were had by thousands of brothers as they shared in the mammoth search for rooms in the various convention cities. Real sacrifices were made in order to perform this service of love. Why, in many locations five to ten or more hours of searching were needed, on the average, to secure each accommodation!

One New York sister spent fifty hours persistently searching for rooms before she finally located some. Another sister did not cease her search even though she had to go to the hospital. From there she telephoned friends and neighbors and explained the urgent need for rooms. She obtained four accommodations—from her hospital bed! And one member in the Brooklyn Bethel family took half of her annual vacation so as to have a greater part in the vital search.

In London, the eighty-one congregations and five hundred pioneers were putting forth a notable effort, but it was evident that more workers were needed. So another two hundred pioneers from all parts of the country were invited to share in rooming work for three months prior to the assembly. They gave up their part-time jobs and spent 150 hours a month looking for rooms, knowing that the target figure was 50,000 accommodations.

The requests that came in to Atlanta were so much beyond expectations—skyrocketing to a thousand a day—that more than 9,000 had to be returned. Since there were not facilities to seat all who wanted to come, those north of the Ohio River and west of the Mississippi were asked to try to attend other assemblies. Still, eighty congregations in a hundred-square-mile area around Atlanta searched and re-searched for rooms to accommodate their spiritual brothers.

Large-Scale Success

The results of persistent efforts in many cities often soared above expectations. A publisher in New York spoke with one young woman who said she did not have any rooms to list. When the urgency of the need was stressed, the woman mentioned that the sister might contact the superintendent at her university, since there were some dormitories vacant during the summer months. The sister followed up the lead and eventually the rooming department was able to arrange for 200 accommodations at the university!

A Witness who was graduated from West Georgia College was able to aid the Atlanta rooming department to secure the use of five dormitories, involving 795 accommodations. For the same assembly, officials at the University of Georgia arranged for four buildings that would provide for over five hundred conventioners. But things did not stop there! They also offered one floor of a new air-conditioned dormitory and worked to complete renovations on others that would bring the total to over 1,200 accommodations. Next, on his own, one of the officials contacted a private housing authority and secured space for 450 more. Similar cooperation in Canada by officials at the University of British Columbia resulted in provisions for more than a thousand delegates.

In many places the question arose as to how *far* outside the convention city delegates would need to room. But at Vancouver the question might well have been, '*How high?*' Many brothers delighted in the answer, for they had rooms in a ski club chalet situated at the 4,000-foot level of beautiful Mount Seymour. From this vantage point, just a 25-minute drive from the stadium, the conventioners could derive pleasure from a panoramic view and yet have easy access to the assembly.

As had been hoped, large numbers of accommodations were found in hotels and motels, but this too involved a great deal of work and organization. For instance, away back in August 1968 workers in London began to visit all hotels in the convention area to make block reservations for thousands of delegates.

The rooming committee reserved a block of 1,200 rooms in one New York hotel and 1,000 in another. Especially satisfying, too, was the fact that these were at unusually low rates. When brothers wrote directly to these hotels, their requests were referred to the rooming committee. However, in some convention cities delegates who wrote personally to hotels and motels had to pay higher rates than those arranged for by the brothers.

A motel manager in Georgia listed 90 percent of his rooms for the brothers, and on top of that he moved out of his own apartment to make it available. One sales manager from a large motel near convention headquarters in Buffalo stopped by and was amazed at the work done in the rooming office in arranging for accommodations.

Hospitable People

Many, many hospitable people kindly opened their homes to the delegates. A Catholic man did not want to hear about the teachings of the Witnesses, yet he said that even his priest had commented on their good conduct. Then the pioneer who was speaking with him explained: "I did not come to preach to you. We are appealing to the hospitable spirit of the people of Pomona. We need accommodations for delegates to our Bible convention." The householder replied: "That's different. You can have my whole house. My wife and I will be on vacation during that week."

A New York doctor was happy to have Jehovah's witnesses stay in his home while he was on vacation, feeling that, in addition to assisting them, he would have protection against burglars. A sister in England was too young

to share in the house-to-house search, so she talked to companions at school. As a result, the parents of one of them offered their spacious home, since they would be away on a holiday. Thus thirteen were accommodated.

A Spanish brother who is a carpenter in California told the owner of the apartment house where he was working about the need for rooms. The landlady said that she would be on vacation but that if the delegates were his "brothers" and as honest as he was, he could have the keys to the eight units in the building and bring in as many Witnesses as possible—completely free!

As a stimulus to share in the rooming work, a congregation in Brooklyn discussed the work at the service meeting. The program drew on the experience of Paul when shipwrecked on the island of Malta, highlighting how the people showed benevolence and hospitality. The next day one of the brothers who heard that part was in the rooming work. A young woman said no rooms were available, but as he left her mother rushed out saying she had overheard and could accommodate four. While writing up the nice accommodation, the brother commented on the unusual last name. "I'm from the island of Malta," she replied. When he read to her from the Bible what happened to Paul, she lowered the price per person by 50 cents a day!

Rooming Department

While thousands of Witnesses were putting forth a magnificent effort to find rooms, others worked diligently at the rooming department. They received phone calls from persons offering rooms, opened mail containing requests for rooms and matched the requests with the accommodation slips turned in by the publishers in the field. When a request matched an accommodation, a card was mailed to the delegate to inform him of the name and address of the householder. Also, the householder was notified as to who would be staying at his home.

When a man in New York was informed by phone that four Witnesses from Sweden were going to stay with him and the time of their arrival, he offered to pick them up at the airport. In fact, he also said that they could stay as long as they wanted. In another instance a German-speaking family was so delighted with the prospect of having delegates from Germany staying with them that they offered six free accommodations.

As an example of what occurred in city after city, in the New York rooming department over one hundred brothers and sisters worked hard to process the thousands of requests and to care for all the other work associated with rooming operations. It was an immense task, but they were happy to do it.

Other acts of love were performed in order to aid the delegates to get to their accommodations. Chartered buses brought to the Society's factory in Brooklyn thousands of brothers arriving by plane from foreign lands. If they arrived late at night they were made comfortable in the factory until the morning. Many were helped to get to their rooms by subway. In other cases, local brothers who owned cars delivered the delegates right to their doorsteps, especially when it would have been difficult to get there by subway or bus.

Some of the brothers who arrived from foreign countries would have had problems understanding directions and information in English. So local brothers from the Spanish and French congregations served as interpreters. Others interpreted for those coming from the Scandinavian lands as well as Germany, Portugal and the Netherlands.

These many brothers and sisters who worked in the rooming department, as well as the other preconvention workers, needed to be fed. In New York this was lovingly cared for by the local congregations. One by one many of the 189 congregations in the city took a turn at preparing meals. In some instances two would collaborate on one meal so the financial burden and the work would be less. The sisters especially appreciated the opportunity to use their talents in behalf of the workers, and went at it with gusto, even to the point of having to be asked to fix less food. Of course, with such delicious home-cooked meals available, the hardworking members of the rooming department did their part with gusto too!

Similar love was shown by a congregation in England, for they provided 420 meals a week for twenty pioneers specially called in to do rooming work.

But whether the brothers worked at rooming headquarters or out in the field ringing doorbells in search for rooms, the efforts were out of love. The mammoth search was carried out so that the visiting delegates would have clean, comfortable places to sleep.

Volunteers worked hard to process room requests

Visiting the BROOKLYN BETHEL

The activities of Jehovah's witnesses throughout the earth are directed from their headquarters known as Brooklyn Bethel. Indicative of the interest that the Witnesses have in their headquarters are the large numbers that visit it. On a Saturday or legal holiday as many as twenty-one busloads and close to 2,000 persons have come to tour the Bethel home and factories. During this past May a group of ninety-nine Witnesses from Milwaukee chartered a plane just for the purpose of visiting headquarters.

Because of this great interest, the Watch Tower Society arranged for such tours before and during the time of the "Peace on Earth" assembly at Yankee Stadium. Visiting hours included all day Saturday and Sunday just before the assembly as well as forenoons on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday of the assembly week.

The Governing Body

The Brooklyn Bethel is "headquarters" for Jehovah's witnesses because it is the location of the governing body of Jehovah's witnesses. This governing body consists primarily of the board of directors of the Pennsylvania corporation of the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society. From here the spiritual food and directions flow for both the "remnant" and the "other sheep."—Matt. 24:45-47; Luke 12:42-44; John 10:16; Rev. 7:9-15; 12:17.

Not that there are not also other Bethel homes. There are over ninety branch offices of the Society throughout the earth. If the branch is large enough to require a full-time office force, if not also a printing force, they live in a Bethel home. Otherwise theirs is a missionary home.

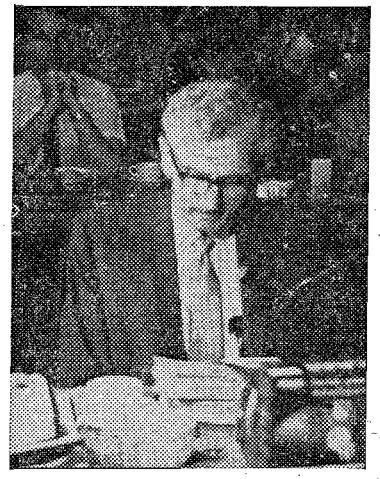
Brooklyn Bethel Home

At present the Brooklyn Bethel home consists of three buildings that are connected by spacious underground tunnels. Two of these buildings are twelve stories high, including basements, and the most recently built one, seven stories. In the latter building there are provisions for sauna baths and a pool for baptisms.

In these three buildings there is room for about 1,200 persons.

Of the 1,052 members of the Bethel family 79 profess to be of the anointed remnant. About 100 persons have been members of the Bethel family upward of 20 years, 36 of these more than 40 years. More than 200 others have been serving from five to twenty years.

As to their various duties: About one-fifth are busy in the home, one-fifth work in offices, and three-fifths work in the factory producing and shipping out the literature.



Each day at Bethel begins with comments on day's text

Printing Plants

The printing plants cover four city blocks. They are situated at the foot of the Brooklyn Bridge, about a ten-minute walk from Bethel. Here the production of literature is carried out. Copy for the literature is checked, translated and proofread. On 33 linotype machines the copy is set, in as many as 120 different languages. The type is put in forms and mats are made. These, in turn, are used to make curved plates for the rotary presses. By giving these plates a coat of nickel they will stand up to more than a million impressions.

Twenty-two rotary presses (another is just about ready to operate and six more are on order) and 23 other kinds of presses are used to do the printing. The rotary presses use $10,000 worth of roll paper a day—12,000 tons last year. The three largest rotary presses, which cost $400,000 apiece, can each produce 25,000 magazines per hour. These require four men, but all the other rotary presses are handled by only two men each. After being printed the magazines are trimmed, wrapped and addressed, and shipped out, at the rate of as many as a million a day. Several large post office truck trailers are needed each day to move them out.

After the book sections have been printed they are gathered by three automatic collating machines. Then they are sewed, 41 sewing machines being needed, and bound on six production lines. In two shifts these lines can produce upward of 100,000

books a day. After books are bound they are boxed and shipped throughout the world, from a shipping department equipped with the latest laborsaving devices, some of which have been invented on the premises. In an average day 15 tons of literature is shipped out, in addition to the magazines.

Located in these printing plants are also the departments for making ink, for the production of home and office furniture, and a machine shop where repairs are made and new machinery is built. There are also complete plumbing, electrical and sheet-metal departments.

Zealous and Joyful Workers

That Bethel members serve for the love of the work is apparent even to outsiders who take tours. The joy and satisfaction they get from their work they show by their smiling faces, their zeal, and in other ways. Thus they are ever inventing machines and gadgets to expedite the work. At present they are building three more wrapping machines and one more endsheeter in their machine shop. Typical is their solving in 20 minutes a ventilating problem in connection with their new laundry after outside technicians had tried in vain for three weeks to solve it. Their zeal is also seen in their once erecting a rotary printing press in twelve working days; outside it usually takes twelve weeks.

They also take delight in having peak productions. Whereas 100,000 books was considered a good day's production for two shifts, one day these two shifts, by working as hard as they could, even cutting short lunchtime and working overtime—for the love of it—produced 144,000 books, a number full of meaning for all Witnesses! (Rev. 14: 1, 3) Similarly those cutting magazine-subscription stencils on one day produced 24,762, an average per person of 149 stencils per hour, whereas a good hour's work is from 100 to 125 stencils. And two of these once set a goal of 3,000 for a day and managed to reach it by working sixteen out of the twenty-four hours, three good days' work in one! Thus also one worker one day sewed 13,000 books, whereas from 8- to 9,000 is a good day's work.

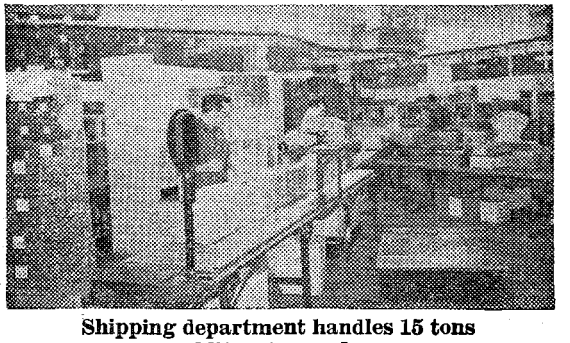
Nor does their zeal slacken with age. They keep on doing all they can, like the widow whom Jesus commended. Not a few keep putting in full days although between seventy-five and eighty years old. One who is ninety years old spends two hours every morning and every afternoon helping out in the office. Another, who is in his ninety-fifth year, on many days works for an hour in the morning and an hour in the afternoon doing clerical work.

Monday evening is time for family study at Bethel; TV enables those in other halls to see and hear program

Daily Table Discussions

Making possible such a fine spirit is the spiritual food that the members of the Bethel family get regularly. Each day begins with a discussion of the day's Bible text, which usually lasts twenty minutes and is concluded with prayer. It is pre-

Increased pace of activity in field ministry has required enlargements in bindery



Shipping department handles 15 tons of literature a day

sided over by the president of the Society, N. H. Knorr, except when he is away from Bethel. This takes place before breakfast is served. During breakfast there is a reading from three to five minutes from the *Yearbook* or some similar publication. During the noon meal reports are given or experiences are related, so that at these two meals the Bethel family is fed well, both spiritually and physically. While all discussions take place in the main dining room, by means of closed-circuit television those in the other three dining rooms can see as well as hear those speaking.

The Family's Own Meetings

The Bethel family is further provided with spiritual food by their own weekly study of *The Watchtower* and their own Theocratic Ministry School. Each Monday night these meetings overflow from their main assembly hall, which seats 462, to a number of other assembly halls, classrooms and dining rooms. Additionally, there is an intensive six-month course called the "Primary School," in which all new members of the Brooklyn Bethel are enrolled and which covers the entire Bible in those six months. It requires considerable homework and is designed to give each new member of the Bethel family a good foundation of Bible knowledge.

The Bethel family is also favored with having access to two large libraries. One is connected with the writing department of the Watch Tower Society, and the other is part of the Gilead missionary school facilities. Together these have close to 15,000 volumes.

Serving with Congregations

All the members of the Bethel family are also members of one of the 189 units of the New York Congregation of Jehovah's witnesses. Of the 1,052 members of the Bethel family, 421 serve in some servant capacity in one of these units; sixty of them are overseers. They have the same opportunity to take in spiritual food that the Witnesses throughout the earth do at their five weekly congregation meetings. They also have opportunities for the field ministry during evenings and weekends, preaching the good news of God's kingdom and making disciples.

How They Feel About It

How Bethel members feel about their privileges has been stated time and again in their life stories, of which more than twenty have been published in *The Watchtower*. Thus one wrote: "I am sure the greatest bank account in the world cannot bring the satisfaction that we have enjoyed and still enjoy in the glorious treasure of service that God has granted us."

And a young man in his twenties who has been serving at Bethel for six years put it this way: "If you came to give rather than to get, you'll have Jehovah's blessing and be happy whatever you are given to do. It is the richest life I have had." Another who came as a teen-ager and is now in his sixties stated: "I've enjoyed many privileges at Bethel, having done just about everything from cleaning toilets to writing and have found satisfaction in whatever it happened to be my lot to be doing at any one time."

And one of the board of directors who has been serving at Bethel for thirty-nine years noted: "Over the years if there is one thing that has been impressed upon me it is the fact that this is Jehovah's organization and not man's. He places the ones in his organization as it pleases him, and as a result his organization has prospered in spite of all the opposition that the Devil's crowd could bring against it."

Program Features Yet to Be Enjoyed

Already we have had a grand spiritual feast, but there is more to come—much more! Be sure to check your convention program so that you do not miss any of it.

To whet your spiritual appetite, here are just a few examples: A full day that features the theme "Call Out for Understanding Itself." Understanding is something that we all want, isn't it? Special features in both the afternoon and the evening highlight this.

The program for the next day is directed to youths, considering the problems facing them. "Let No Man Ever Look Down on Your Youth" is the title of a vivid and helpful drama on that day. And what about that talk "Peace with God amid the 'Great Tribulation'"? You may find that it influences what you say about the sign of the "last days" and the "great tribulation" when witnessing to others. Don't miss it.

Personal admonition for every one of us will be heard on the day featuring the theme "May 'the Word of Jehovah Keep Moving Speedily.'" If you want to have just as full a share in Jehovah's service as possible during the years remaining before Armageddon, this program may mark a turning point for you. You will also be helped to gain a deeper understanding of the Christian Greek Scriptures when you hear the talk "The Writing of Correct Words of Truth."

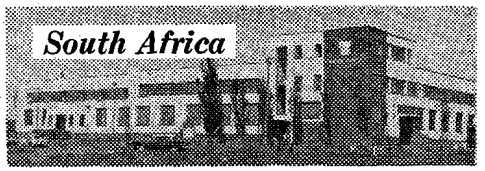
The next day's program has been arranged to help us remain "solid in the faith." Each talk, each demonstration contains information that is vital to us in these closing years of the old system. And the important afternoon discourse "Final Woes to Enemies of Peace with God" involves a vivid portrayal of the outworking of Jehovah's purposes in our day.

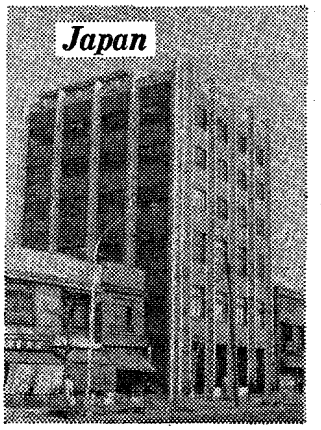
On the final day of the assembly, of course, there will be the widely advertised public address "The Approaching Peace of a Thousand Years," and, in addition, talks and a drama have been prepared to help us appreciate the work yet to be done.

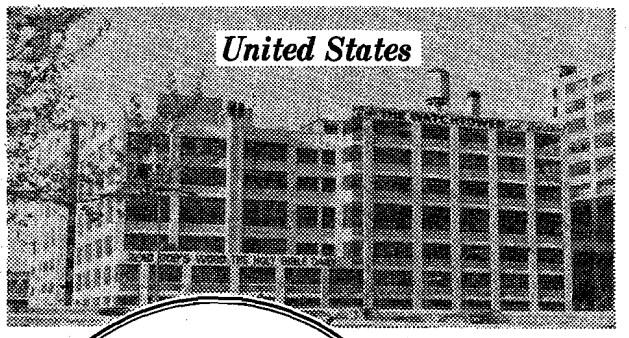
This is only a sampling of the good things yet to be enjoyed. Every portion of the program has been prepared for our blessing. Let's benefit from it all!

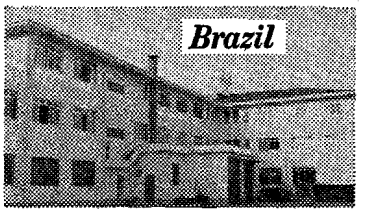
THE APPROACHING PEACE of a thousand years

"Peace on Earth" International Assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses



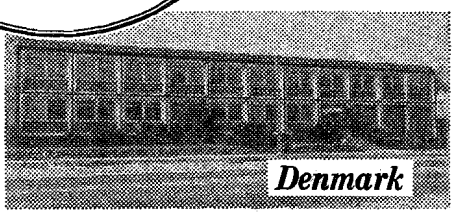






Jehovah's Witnesses

publish Bible literature in over 160 languages, to acquaint persons with the good news of peace by means of God's kingdom. Shown here are some of the printing plants they operate in various parts of the world.



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THE APPROACHING PEACE of a Thousand Years

When the three astronauts in their man-made spacecraft orbited around the moon ten times at Christmastime of the year 1968, they observed that things were very peaceful at the moon just seventy miles away. When they returned safely to our earth, they reentered a world in which wars raged and where great fears were being expressed of the breaking out of a third world war, a nuclear war. Yet they were most happy to get back to our troubled earth. And why not? Who is it that wants to go to the moon in order to enjoy planetary peace? The thing that ordinary people want is world peace right here on earth, where we belong. This desire of their hearts is not misplaced, for right here on earth is where they will enjoy a peace of a thousand years, and this beginning right soon. What if you should live to see it begin? You would consider yourself to be most highly favored indeed.

World conditions today will no doubt prompt you to ask, "Who will usher in and maintain this peace of a thousand years?" After all the display that men of world affairs have made of themselves as peacemakers and peace-keepers, you have properly lost confidence in the ability of men to do such a colossal thing. To you the obstacles in the way of establishing a lasting world peace seem insurmountable for men. You are aware of the explosive increase in the earth's human population, and you read the full-page advertisement in the newspaper, with the headline: "The Population Bomb Threatens the Peace of the World," ads of this sort being repeatedly published by the "Campaign to Check the Population Explosion." (New York *Times,* February 9, 1969) Also, under the shocking headline "Briton Foresees a Hell on Earth" you read the statement made at London, England, November 23, 1968, by Lord Ritchie-Calder, president of the Conservation Society, in which he said, in part:

"I am always appalled when I hear people complacently talking about the population explosion as though it belonged to the future, or world hunger as though it were threatening, when hundreds of millions can testify that it is already here—swear it with panting breath. . . . My concern is to conserve the human spirit not from the hell hereafter but from hell upon earth."—New York *Times,* as of November 24, 1968.

This only serves to confirm what Julian Huxley, former director general of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, said in the same city fourteen years earlier (September 7, 1954) to the conference of Parliamentarians for World Government, namely, that "the world's most pressing problem was the growth of population, which is threatening to outstrip food supplies." (New York *Times,* September 8, 1954) A thoughtful person, therefore, asks, What will the population and food situation be fourteen years from now? What we are reasonably led to expect does not give us any peace of mind.

The settling of minor wars, as in Vietnam and in the Middle East, cannot change the overall picture. The hostility of the two great political groups still remains. In discussing the "Nation's Business," the New York *Times* of December 6, 1968 (page 96, paragraphs 4, 5), said: ". . . the cold war, though vastly changed, is far from over. Its perils are not diminishing. If any-

thing they're on the increase." It expressed the fear that continued disintegration of the Soviet bloc of nations may tempt the Russians into new and desperate measures. This reminds us that the Soviet Union's next-door neighbor, Communist China, is a big problem for her, yes, and for much of the rest of the world. Added to the awesomeness of her tremendous population is the disquieting fact that Communist China is now a nuclear power with the capacity of launching long-range missiles. By continued success in the missile field and by beginning to stockpile her weapons in the year 1972, and then keeping this up, the Communist Chinese "should be in a position to deploy 15 or 20 Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles by about 1975."—New York *Times,* February 3, 1969.

N. H. Knorr, president of Watch Tower Society, to deliver this public address throughout North America and Europe

Truly the problems that need to be solved for world peace by human means are formidable, and yet there are men who offer themselves to tackle such problems. One such appears to be the thirty-seventh president of the United States of America. In his address following his inauguration on January 20, 1969, he said:

"I have taken an oath today in the presence of God and my countrymen, to uphold and to defend the Constitution of the United States. To that oath, I now add this sacred commitment: I shall consecrate my office, my energies and all the wisdom I can summon to the cause of peace. . . . The greatest honor history can bestow is the title of peacemaker. This honor now beckons America—the chance to help lead the world at last out of the valley of turmoil and on to that high ground of peace that man has dreamed of since the dawn of civilization. If we succeed generations to come will say of us now living that we mastered our moment, that we helped make the world safe for mankind. . . . Our destiny offers not the cup of despair, but the chalice of opportunity. So let us seize it, not in fear, but in gladness—and 'riders on the earth together,' let us go forward, firm in our faith, steadfast in our purpose, cautious of the dangers, but sustained by our confidence in the will of God and the promise of man."—New York *Times,* January 21, 1969.

Possibly the president had in mind the famous words of the Man of whom he claims to be a follower, as recorded by Jesus' biographer Matthew Levi: "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." (Matthew 5: 9, *AV*) But at least the president had in mind an ancient prophecy of the eighth century before our Common Era. How can we be sure of this? Because, when being sworn in with upraised right hand, he had his left hand resting upon two family Bibles, held one on top of the other by his wife and opened at the prophecy of Isaiah, chapter two, verse four, which reads: "And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." (*AV*) (New York *Times,* January 20, 1969, front page, last column) Having his left hand at that Bible verse was, not accidental, but of design. In that Bible verse was expressed

G. Suiter, secretary-treasurer, speaker in Buffalo

"the will of God" of more than two millenniums ago, and now the president was adding "the promise of man."

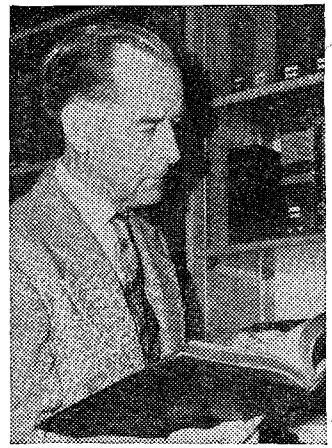
DEPENDENT UPON POLITICAL RULERS?

Certainly if the prophetic words of Isaiah, chapter two, verse four, bespeak the will of Almighty God, they will without fail come to reality and there will one day be universal peace. But does the ultimate realization of those prophetic words require a condition? Is their realization conditional upon the "promise of man"? Does their realization depend upon the "promise" of the political rulers of the nations and people? If it were, well, then, would a warless world ever come to earth?

Prominent, influential men of the world may see the final state of the world that God has willed. Moved with religious emotion, they may in all sincerity promise to use their political office, their energies and all the wisdom that they can summon to work for realizing that world state as willed by God. But what if such men, when making their promise, have in mind working for it in their own way according to the wisdom of this world, and not in God's way according to his wisdom as set forth in his written Word, the Holy Bible? Have we reason to believe that God will prosper their efforts to fulfill their "promise" in their own self-determined way? Or, may it be true that such men of "promise" will really be working against the "will of God"? Has man's way up till now for bringing in a lasting universal peace been God's way? The apparent lack of God's blessing upon man's way of doing it till now would answer No! But through the same prophet Isaiah God himself answers this vital question, saying:

"My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For . . . so shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." —Isaiah 55:8-11, *AV*.

God's spoken and written word will never fail. But what about the word of "promise" made by men in political power? At the close of World War I in 1918 such men were bent on preventing the occurrence of another world conflict. What was the way that the political men who had to do with the peace treaty decided upon to prevent it? By embodying in the peace treaty the so-called Covenant of the League of Nations. When the peace treaty went into force, so did the League of Nations. Through that League of Nations the men supporting it promised much. Seemingly the League of Nations was according to the will of God, because the religious clergy of Christendom backed up the League. The Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America said as if it were a spokesman for God:



F. W. Franz, vice-president, speaker in Atlanta

"Such a League is not a mere political expedient; it is rather the political expression of the Kingdom of God on earth. . . . The Church can give a spirit of good-will, without which no League of Nations can endure. . . . The League of Nations is rooted in the Gospel. Like the Gospel, its objective is 'peace on earth, good-will toward men.' "—*Federal Council Bulletin*, Vol. II, No. 1, as of January 1919, pages 12-14.

Evidently those churches of Christendom were wrong about this, for that League of Nations did not endure. The very thing that it was designed by man's wisdom to prevent was the thing that put it out of action, namely, World War II. The League turned over its effects to the United Nations, the world peace organization that came into existence on October 24, 1945. Once again this international organization for world peace and security

would seem to be according to the "will of God," inasmuch as the clergy of Christendom piously support it. Even the popes of Vatican City have come out in support of it, Pope Paul VI personally addressing it on one occasion at its New York headquarters. Today one hundred and twenty-six nations are members of it, including the nation that recently inaugurated its thirty-seventh president. The new president has indicated how he will fulfill the "promise of man," and that is by working with the United Nations, together with other but smaller international alliances. But the blessing of the clergy of Christendom gives no more guarantee that this United Nations will endure than it did for the League of Nations.

History cannot bestow upon the League of Nations the honor of bearing the title of Peacemaker. There is no basis for history to honor the United Nations with the title of Peacemaker. While the United Nations mouths great words of peace and carries on negotiations to restore or keep the peace in different areas of the earth, its member nations are preparing for war. The strongest members of its Security Council are the most mightily armed nations in all human history. World peace today, such as it is, is a peace of terror, a peace maintained only because of the terrorizing fear of nuclear, bacteriological and radiological war that spells the doom of modern civilization. Where, then, is the fulfillment of the words that are carved prominently on a wall at 42nd Street facing the plaza of the United Nations amidst New York city? What words? These: "They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

Happy group of missionaries in Vietnam, shown before departure for "Peace on Earth" International Assembly

NOT CONDITIONED ON "PROMISE OF MAN"

Regardless of what human history as written by uninspired men may do as to honoring men and nations with titles, God himself does not purpose to bestow the "greatest honor" of the title of Peacemaker upon any politician of this last half of the twentieth century. This honor at His hand is not now beckoning to any member of the United Nations or to any nation outside it. Not a single one of the nations and peoples of the world is accepting from God's mouth what the prophecy of Isaiah 2:4 says would precede the beating of swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks and the learning of war no more by the nations. Those opening words of this prophetic verse read: "And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people."

A prophecy of that same ancient time that corresponds with that of Isaiah 2:4, the prophecy in Micah 4:3, reads: "And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."—*AV*.

The nations are not letting themselves be judged by the Lord God. They submit their problems to the General Assembly or the Security Council of the United Nations or to its International Court of Justice at The Hague in the Netherlands. They do not go by the judgments that are set down in God's written Word, the Holy Bible. The nations, even the "strong nations" that are "afar off" from where the prophets Isaiah and Micah lived, do not take any rebuke from the Lord God as set out in his written Word or as quoted by his mouthpieces from that written Word. If they did accept and heed his judg-

ment and his rebuke, they would beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks and not lift up the sword of war against one another or even learn war anymore. But everybody knows that they are not doing so. Hence, regardless of the "promise of man," no lasting world peace can be hoped for from the nations, either in a united organization or singly. No political ruler or nation will yet step forward and be the one that divine history will greatly honor with the title of Peacemaker.

Nothing in the way of a disarmed, peace-learning world can be expected from the "promise of man" that pursues the way and wisdom of man, not God's way and wisdom, which are heaven-high above man's. The Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth, is not dependent upon the "promise of man." His prediction of the future is not conditioned upon it. His word at Isaiah 2:4 is an unconditional prophecy. Even though the people and strong nations of today are planning and acting against it, that glorious prophecy will come true. God will see to that, for what man, what people, what strong nation can succeed against Him? From this sure fact let all persons who yearn for everlasting universal peace as foretold in God's Word take comfort.

God does not change with regard to his stated purpose. For almost two millenniums now he has had the one whom he has anointed or consecrated to serve as Peacemaker for all mankind. By the prophet Isaiah God foretold the disarming of earth's inhabitants and the learning of war no more. By the same prophet God foretold this Peacemaker. We have already considered Isaiah, chapter two, verse four. Turn now to chapter nine, verses six and seven, and read of the birth and work of this Peacemaker:

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from hence-

Public Address Widely Advertised

forth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."—*AV*.

Hear again those prophetic words: "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end." In those words is given God's unbreakable promise of an unending government of endless peace. It is the government of a child born into the family line of King David, the son whose name was to be called "The Prince of Peace." His life will have to be as long as his peaceful government—endless, immortal. The fact that his name was also to be called "The everlasting Father" bears this out. This would result in his being the Permanent Heir of King David, inasmuch as the divine prophecy says that this peaceful endless government would be "upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever." It is to the reign of this Permanent Heir of King David as The Prince of Peace that we must look for the approaching peace of a thousand years. He is the one whom the Lord God honors with the title of Peacemaker, and not some politician or some nation of this twentieth century.

In New York to hear this talk was Hildegard Seliger, imprisoned 9 years by the Nazis and 10 years by the Communists because she told others that only God could bring lasting peace

It is true that more than two and a half millenniums have passed since that prophecy was uttered and written down by God's prophet Isaiah, and here we are in a time when nations are trying to stave off the world war that would be the greatest and worst of all human history. But we must not lose faith in the coming true of Isaiah's prophecy of the Peacemaker and of eternal peace on earth. The zeal of the Lord of hosts is behind this prophecy, which He himself inspired by his holy spirit. The prophecy closes by saying: "The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this." His zeal has not cooled off by now regarding the prophecy, for his own name and reputation are at stake in connection with it. He has never lied in anything else; he will not prove to be a liar as regards this prophecy either. He is the "God, that cannot lie."—Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18, *AV*.

SOMEONE GREATER THAN KING SOLOMON

God's mouthpiece, the prophet Isaiah, continued to prophesy on into the reign of King Hezekiah of Jerusalem, but Hezekiah did not prove to be the promised "child" or "son" who was to be honored with the title of Peacemaker, The Prince of Peace. Neither did the seven kings who followed Hezekiah upon the "throne of David" at Jerusalem, down to the last king, Zedekiah, prove to be the promised Prince of Peace. In fact, in the eleventh year of the reign of King Zedekiah the holy city of Jerusalem and its temple as built by the earlier King Solomon were destroyed by the armies of pagan Babylon, and the conquered people were deported as exiles to far-off Babylon. Only seventy years later did the city of Jerusalem and a temple for God's worship begin to be built by released exiles.

Well, then, was the "zeal of the LORD of hosts" frustrated and cooled down? Not at all! Despite this apparent failure of Isaiah's prophecy, God's zeal was as hot as ever for the performing of the prophecy. The "throne of David" was never again set up at Jerusalem, but that did not matter. The line of the royal family of King David was not blotted out but continued on. Then five hundred and thirty-five years after Jerusalem began to be rebuilt Isaiah's prophecy began to be fulfilled by the birth of the promised "child," the "son" who was to be the Permanent Heir of King David. This occurred in the second year before the start of our Common Era; in other words, in the year 2 B.C.E. It occurred at the birthplace of King David, namely, Bethlehem-Judah, in fulfillment of Micah's prophecy (5:2).

In order to prove that his ancient prophecy had come true, the zealous Lord of

hosts would certainly have witnesses to the birth of the promised Prince of Peace. First of all he made angels witnesses to the child's birth. Then he made shepherds of Bethlehem witnesses of the event. By night in the early autumn of the year 2 B.C.E. the angel of the Lord God appeared to those shepherds watching over their sheep in the field near Bethlehem. An investigator of the facts of the birth, a medical doctor by the name of Luke, though not himself delivering the child, reports: "An angel of the Lord flashed upon them, the glory of the Lord shone all round them. They were terribly afraid, but the angel said to them, 'Have no fear. This is good news I am bringing you, news of a great joy that is meant for all the People. To-day you have a saviour born in the town of David, the Lord messiah. And here is a proof for you: you will find a baby wrapped up and lying in a stall for cattle.' Then a host of heaven's army suddenly appeared beside the angel, extolling God and saying, 'Glory to God in high heaven, and peace on earth for men whom he favours!' "—Luke 2:8-14, *Moffatt.*

Doctor Luke tells us that the shepherds went and found the newborn baby, and thus they became eyewitnesses of the birth of "the Lord messiah," along with the heavenly angels. Doctor Luke closes, saying: "Then the shepherds went away back, glorifying and extolling God for all that they had heard and seen—as they had been told they would."—Luke 2:15-20, *Mo.*

Forty days later the God-fearing man Simeon and then the prophetess Anna saw and identified the child when he was brought to the temple at Jerusalem. In this way they also became witnesses to the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy concerning the Prince of Peace.—Luke 2: 22-38.

The angel spoke of the child as "the Lord messiah." Greek-speaking Jews of that day would say "the Lord Christ," for "messiah" and "Christ" mean the same thing, "anointed one." That is to say, God's anointed one. According to God's instruction to his virgin mother he was given the personal name Jeshua; but the Greek-speaking Jews like Doctor Luke called him Jesus. So with his title he was called Jeshua Messiah or Jesus Christ. (Luke 1:26-33; Matthew 1:1, 20-25) Because he was a descendant of King David he was also called "the Son of David." Why was he given the personal name Jesus? The *Dictionary of the Bible,* by Dr. William Smith (page 1346), edition of 1894, says that the name Jeshua or Jesus means "Help of Jehovah," or "Saviour." This corresponds with what God's angel told his foster father, carpenter Joseph at Nazareth: "You must call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." —Matthew 1:18-25.

Among the royal forefathers was the wisest man of ancient times, King Solomon the son of David. His name means "Peaceful," or "Peace." Quite appropriately, he reigned at Jerusalem, the name of which means "Possession of Twofold Peace." Despite this combination of names Solomon's reign did not usher in a millennium of peace. At most it brought in a peace of forty years. Despite his wise start as king of Jerusalem, he turned out bad in his old age. He became oppressive to the people of Israel. He yielded to the pressure of his many foreign wives and joined them in worshiping other gods than Jehovah God. He thus lost his peace with the one living and true God, who expressed his indignation by ripping ten of the twelve tribes of Israel away from the kingdom of Solomon's successors. (1 Kings 11:7–12:24; Nehemiah 13:26, 27) But during the more than half of his forty-year reign that Solomon was faithful to Jehovah as God and wrote three books of the Holy Bible, Solomon was used as a prophetic figure of the true Messiah or Christ.

Unlike Solomon, Jesus Christ as a perfect man on earth never proved unfaithful to God. He worthily bore the name Jeshua or Jesus, which means "Help of Jehovah," or "Salvation of Jehovah." Solomon his ancestor had been anointed with holy oil to be king over all Israel, but Jesus was anointed with holy spirit from heaven at the time of his water baptism in the Jordan River, God's voice being heard by John the Baptist, saying: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:13-17, *AV*) Jesus thereby became God's Anointed One or Christ in a sense superior to Solomon. Without egotism or exaggeration Jesus could speak of

himself as being "something more than Solomon." (Matthew 12:42) By his faithfulness he maintained his right to the "throne of David" or the kingly rulership over all Israel that such throne symbolized. But God never gave the anointed Jesus that "throne of David" on earth. (Luke 1:32, 33) First, God tested Jesus' faithfulness to the limit, letting him die as a perfect human sacrifice on an execution stake, that thus Jesus might "save his people from their sins." —Matthew 1:21.

W. Mills, from Nigeria, for 30 years a teacher of God's Word, present to hear this discourse

The anointed Jesus kept his peace with Jehovah God clear to the end of his earthly life. Shortly before he was betrayed and turned over to the executioners he said to the eleven faithful ones of his twelve apostles: "I leave you peace, I give you my peace. I do not give it to you the way that the world gives it." (John 14:27) Hours afterward, when standing before the trial judge, the Roman governor Pontius Pilate, the peaceful Jesus said to him: "My kingdom is no part of this world. . . . my kingdom is not from this source." It was not at Jesus' request that Pontius Pilate put over the head of Jesus on the execution stake the notice reading: "Jesus the Nazarene the King of the Jews." (John 18:36; 19:16-22) Jesus refused to accept kingship at the hand of Devil or man. He died on the execution stake, waiting on his God Jehovah to give him the "throne of David his father" to which he was the Permanent Heir. (Matthew 4:8-11; Luke 1:32, 33; John 6:14, 15) He died true and loyal to what he had preached, namely, "The kingdom of God has drawn near."—Mark 1:14, 15; Matthew 4:12-17.

Today, after almost three millenniums, unfaithful Solomon still sleeps in death with his forefathers. (1 Kings 11:41-43, *AV*) Today, after more than nineteen hundred years from his sacrificial death on the execution stake outside the walls of Jerusalem, Jesus Christ lives! On the third day of his death the Almighty God Jehovah raised him from the dead to life as his spiritual Son in heaven, clothing him with immortality and incorruption. As Jesus Christ manifested himself to his disciples after his resurrection from the dead, during forty days before his ascension to heaven, there came to be upward of five hundred eyewitnesses to the resurrected Jesus Christ. (Acts 1:1-5; 2:22-36; 1 Corinthians 15:3-9) He now being alive forevermore, he can indeed become "The everlasting Father" to the dying world of mankind. Also, of his peaceful government over mankind there does not need to be any end and there "shall be no end." (Isaiah 9:6, 7, *AV*) He is the heavenly Ruler able to usher in upon war-torn mankind the peace of a thousand years. The United Nations cannot do so!

THE MILLENNIAL PEACE APPROACHING

When, though, does the Prince of Peace start his government of an endless peace? Righteously disposed people today are crying out for such a government. Does not the very world situation mark this as the epoch in which it would be most fitting for Jehovah God to bring in such a government according to his unbreakable promise of Isaiah 9:6, 7? Apparently so. But first the obstructors of peace must be cleared out of the way. The greatest obstructor is one over whom neither the United Nations nor any single nation or people have any control, for he is superhuman. He is the one who offered Jesus Christ all the kingdoms of this world if he would turn away from worshiping Jehovah as God, worshiping the great Tempter instead. This greatest peace obstructor is named Satan the Devil. He is the prince of legions of devils or demons. (Matthew

4:8-11; 12:24-28, *AV*) Jesus Christ called him also "the ruler of this world," whereas the Christian apostle Paul called him "the god of this system of things." The apostle John says: "The whole world is lying in the power of the wicked one." —John 12:31; 14:30; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 John 5:19.

It will take more than all men together to put that greatest obstructor of peace out of power over mankind. This the heavenly Jesus Christ will do, for, according to the several names by which he was to be called, he is "The mighty God." This he will do after first doing away with the visible peace obstructors here on earth. (Revelation 19:11 to 20:3) This requires him to be first a Warrior King, reigning in the midst of his earthly enemies, finally subduing them completely, just as foretold by King David in Psalm 110:1-6. He has had to do this because, since the end of the "times of the Gentiles" in the year 1914, the nations and empires of this world have refused to yield over peaceably their earthly kingship to him, even Christendom refusing to do so. (Luke 21:24; Psalm 2:1-6) Till this year, after more than half a century, the nations have refused to do so. What will this mean shortly for all mankind? This: the outbreak of the "war of the great day of God the Almighty" at the world situation called Har–Magedon or Armageddon. (Revelation 16:14, 16) That war will remove all human obstructors to peace.

M. Oda, from Japan, to hear this message about world peace

After this taking away of all human and demon obstructors of world peace there will come the reign of the Prince of Peace over all the earth. God's fixed time for this is approaching, and along with it the peace of a thousand years. A thousand years equals a millennium. This reminds us of something said in the aforementioned inaugural speech of the American president on January 20, 1969. He remarked upon the approach of things of interest to Americans and to all Christendom. In the eighth paragraph of his speech the newly sworn-in president said: "Eight years from now America will celebrate its 200th anniversary as a nation. And within the lifetime of most people now living, mankind will celebrate that great new year which comes only once in a thousand years—the beginning of the third millennium." The president was referring to A.D. 2001.

The next remarks of the president showed that he expected there to be an America in the first year of that third millennium. But for God-fearing students of the Holy Bible containing both the ancient Hebrew Scriptures and the Christian Greek Scriptures, there is a more important millennium that compels their attention. That is the seventh millennium! No, not the seventh millennium measured from A.D. 1, but the seventh millennium of man's existence here on earth, the seventh millennium measured from God's creation of perfect man and woman in the garden of Eden. This is usually measured according to the Anno Mundi rule or "In the Year of the World" calendar, the world of mankind being here meant.

Does this fact have any bearing on the approach of the peace of a thousand years or of a millennium? Very apparently Yes! According to the calendar of the Orthodox Jews, the new American president delivered his inaugural speech at the beginning of the fifth lunar month of the year 5729 A.M., this date being based on the ancient Hebrew Scriptures alone. But according to chronologers or time checkers who take into account also the inspired Christian Greek Scriptures, the Jewish calendar is more than two hundred years behind time. In certain editions of the Holy Bible, Catholic and

Protestant, there have appeared dates according to the chronology of the noted Irish Anglican prelate, Archbishop James Ussher (1581-1656 C.E.). Ussher's date for man's creation is 4004 B.C.E. By this reckoning six thousand years or six millenniums of man's existence would end in the autumn of the coming year of 1996 C.E. after which the seventh millennium of man's existence would start.

More recently earnest researchers of the Holy Bible have made a recheck of its chronology. According to their calculations the six millenniums of mankind's life on earth would end in the mid-seventies. Thus the seventh millennium from man's creation by Jehovah God would begin within less than ten years.

Apart from the global change that present-day world conditions indicate is fast getting near, the arrival of the seventh millennium of man's existence on earth suggests a gladsome change for war-stricken humankind. According to the first two chapters of the Holy Bible man and woman were created toward the close of the sixth creative day. We are now living in the seventh creative day, and on this seventh day Jehovah God has been resting from earthly creation. To run parallel with this resting of God on his seventh creative day, he gave the Ten Commandments to his prophet Moses, in the fourth one of which God commanded that his chosen people should rest on the seventh day of the week. (Exodus 20:8-11) That day was therefore the weekly sabbath day, the day of desistance from human toil.

The Lord Jesus Christ, the prospective Prince of Peace, pointed forward to a greater Sabbath Day. Pointing forward to this, he said on a certain weekly sabbath day when he came under criticism: "Lord of the sabbath is what the Son of man is." (Matthew 12:1-8) He was referring to his peaceful reign of a thousand years. Jehovah God measures human affairs according to a thousand-year-length rule. He inspired the prophet Moses to write, in Psalm 90:4: "A thousand years are in your eyes but as yesterday when it is past." He also inspired the Christian apostle Peter to write: "One day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." (2 Peter 3:8, *AV*) In prophetic vision the apostle John saw Satan the Devil and his demons bound and abyssed for a thousand years, during which thousand years Jesus Christ reigned with his victorious disciples over all mankind. (Revelation 5:9, 10; 20:1-7) So, according to God's viewpoint of time, that thousand years of his Son Jesus Christ would correspond with merely "one day."

In order for the Lord Jesus Christ to be "Lord even of the sabbath day," his thousand-year reign would have to be the seventh in a series of thousand-year periods or millenniums. (Matthew 12:8, *AV*) Thus it would be a sabbatic reign. Since early in the existence of mankind Satan the Devil has been on the loose, making the human family to toil in hard bondage, causing the earth to be filled with violence before the global flood of Noah's day and inducing the same old earth to be filled with even greater violence today. Soon now six millenniums of his wicked exploiting of mankind as his slaves will end, within the lifetime of the generation that has witnessed world events since the close of the Gentile Times in 1914 till now, according to the prophetic words of Jesus in Matthew 24:34. Would not, then, the end of six millenniums of mankind's laborious enslavement under Satan the Devil be the fitting time for Jehovah God to usher in a Sabbath millennium for all his human creatures? Yes, indeed! And his King Jesus Christ will be Lord of that Sabbath.

In ancient times, when God's chosen people were under the Ten Commandments given through his prophet Moses, the weekly sabbath was a peaceful day. To agree with God's own desistance from earthly work on his seventh creative day, his people were under divine command to desist from the hard work of the preceding six days, likewise their domestic animals. (Exodus 20:1-11) In like manner Christ's sabbatic reign for a thousand years will be a peaceful time for this earth and its inhabitants. It will be a time of rest from all the warfare and violence of the previous six millenniums. Swords, symbolic of murderous warfare, will have been beaten into plowshares, and spears into pruning hooks for the grapevines. Life

Group arriving on chartered plane from Netherlands to attend the New York assembly; at least 45 chartered planes brought delegates from abroad

will not be dull in that restful millennial sabbath. It will not be a time of idleness. The Sabbath Lord, Jesus Christ the King, will not be idle, neither will he let his earthly subjects be idle.

Why was it that Jesus Christ, when on earth as a Jew under the Ten Commandments, did so many of his miraculous works on the weekly sabbath day, healing the sick and the crippled? Not only to show that it was right to do good on the sabbath. It was also to foreshadow how, during his sabbatic reign, he will deliver humankind from bondage to Satan the Devil and his demons and relieve them of the deadly effects of the sin and imperfection inherited from our first human parents, Adam and Eve. War and violence during the past six millenniums have brought millions of humans to untimely death and the grave; but the Lord of the Sabbath, Jesus Christ, will bring up the thousands of millions of dead humankind from the graves, exactly as he prophesied that he would do. (John 5:28, 29) It was no mere idle phrase when his truthful apostle Paul wrote that God's sabbath law had a "shadow of the good things to come." —Hebrews 10:1; Colossians 2:16, 17.

PLOWSHARES, PRUNING HOOKS FOR PARADISE

Already, even during this war-endangered time, Jehovah's Christian witnesses have conformed to the prophecy of Isaiah 2:4 and beaten swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. After the universal war of Har–Magedon and the binding and abyssing of Satan and his demons, this prophecy will continue to apply. Why? In order that the human survivors of the "war of the great day of God the Almighty" may use their plowshares and pruning hooks in transforming this war-scarred earth into the glorious Paradise that Jehovah God told man originally to make it. (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:8-14) God's word will not return to him void, unfulfilled. No, but under the thousand-year reign of his Son Jesus Christ this entire earth will be cultivated into an everlasting Paradise filled with liberated, perfected human creatures. Within that seventh sabbatic millennium the King and Lord of the sabbath day will undo all the work of that greatest of all peace disturbers, Satan the Devil.—Luke 23:43.

As under the operation of the Ten Commandments among God's ancient chosen people all violators of the sabbath day were killed, so those not rendering obedience to the Lord of the coming sabbath millennium and disturbing the peace will be destroyed. (Numbers 15:32-36; Exodus 31:13-17) After Satan the Devil and his demons are let loose from the abyss and once again try to disturb the peace of our earth, they will be destroyed, and with them all those who try again to make this earth a battlefield, a war arena. (Revelation 20:7-10, 15) Those who keep peace with God will remain in the Paradise earth as its eternal caretakers.

Then it will not be necessary to take a rocket to the moon to find a peaceful planet, for then the prayer in behalf of the Greater Solomon, Jesus Christ the King, will be fulfilled, as recorded in Psalm 72:7: "In his days the righteous one will sprout, and the abundance of peace until the moon is no more." That peace will never end, any more than the moon. The earthly peace thus established and maintained during the Messiah's sabbath of a thousand years will continue on forever.

Jehovah's Christian witnesses of today are joyfully preparing for that approaching peace of a thousand years. All who yearn to enjoy that foretold "peace on earth for men whom [God] favours" are heartily invited to join them in getting ready for that blessed millennium of peace.

"THEN IS FINISHED THE MYSTERY OF GOD"

"On this happy occasion it becomes very appropriate to introduce to you the new publication of the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society of Pennsylvania, this 384-page bound book with the title *'Then Is Finished the Mystery of God.'"*

This thrilling announcement came after the adoption by the vast audience of a strongly worded Declaration against Christendom and in favor of the kingdom of God.

The Book's Arresting Title

What is the "mystery of God" mentioned in the book's title? And what is the point in time signified by "then"?—Rev. 10:7, *AS*.

Without mincing matters the new book supplies the answers, offering in evidence the Scriptures themselves and the facts fulfilling Bible prophecy. It explains: "'The mystery of God' proves to be the Messianic kingdom of God in which the mysterious 'seed' of 'the woman' spoken of in Genesis 3:15 must reign."

With the arrival of the year 1914 C.E. and God's time for Christ Jesus to assume office as king, the mystery was brought to a finish by the installation of the Messianic kingdom of God.

Its Stimulating Contents

The *"Mystery of God"* book is a gripping verse-by-verse discussion of the first thirteen chapters of Revelation. It opens appropriately with the vision of God recorded in Revelation chapter four. Then it moves on to chapters five and six, which speak of a mysterious scroll sealed with seven seals. It is shown that the scroll contains the things that have long been secret in connection with God's foreknowledge. Thus, with the opening of each of its seals, there is a revealing of these things that God has foreknown.

After discussing the 144,000 sealed ones, the book goes back to a coverage of the first three chapters of Revelation, which contain messages to the "angels" responsible for the congregations of these sealed ones.

Next, the significance of the sounding of the series of seven symbolic trumpets is taken up. These trumpet blasts are shown to be a calling attention to the secret things of God, things which have now been revealed to God's servants, and which things are now occurring or will yet occur in the future.

In proceeding to its conclusion, the book describes the birth of God's Messianic kingdom, and clearly identifies the earthly foes of this heavenly government.

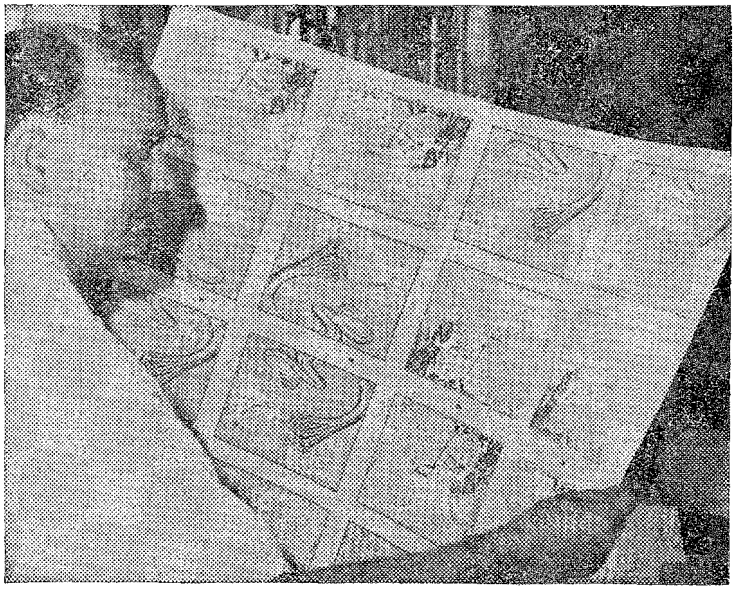
"Final Woes to Enemies of Peace with God"

The above is the title of the stirring discourse that was given before the release of the new *"Mystery of God"* book. Who are the enemies of man's gaining peace with God?

The speaker wasted no time in answering this question. "The most strenuous enemies of peace with God today," he said, "are hypocritical followers of Jesus Christ, so-called Christians, particularly their religious clergy, Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant." But also included among those enemies of man's gaining peace with God are the godless radical elements of earth.

What are the final woes upon these enemies? These final woes come upon them in connection with the proclamation concerning God's kingdom and the action that it takes in crushing all of its opposers out of existence. "Both to Christendom and to radical elements," the speaker exclaimed, "the preaching of God's vengeance has been devastating and painful like the effects produced by heavenly angels sounding loud trumpets, as described in Revelation, chapters eight through eleven."

What proves to be the final woe upon God's enemies? the speaker asked. "It is the 'kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ,'" he answered. By means of His kingdom Almighty God will clean all wicked opposers from the earth.



Endsheets for "Mystery" book fresh from the printing press

DECLARATION

At each of the "Peace on Earth" assemblies around the earth in 1969, Jehovah's witnesses are taking the occasion to set forth the following Declaration of their position and attitude in this most turbulent period of human history:

PEACE with the Creator of heaven and earth, by means of his long-promised kingdom of his Messiah—this is what we hold to be the key to an enduring peace for all the world of mankind. When we keep our peace with God, we can never be at war with our neighbors who are fellow creatures of God; peace with God and peace with our fellowman go together. In order to be children of God and loyal subjects of his Messianic kingdom we are obliged to be peacemakers. (Matt. 5:9) We therefore disclaim all connection with the professed Christian realm known as Christendom, for her history proves her to be a fomenter of carnal warfare between even fellow religionists, staining her skirts with their blood. She has persecuted with torture and violent death those who have differed from her in religious conscience. She has not promoted the interests of God's Messianic kingdom, notoriously failing in this regard since the outbreak of World War I in 1914. We can have no part with her, for it is now clearly manifest that the judgments of God as expressed in the Holy Bible are against Christendom and will shortly be executed upon her.

The types of political government that obtained previously down till the world conflict of 1914-1918 have failed to maintain the stability of the world of mankind. Since then world revolution in favor of radical forms of government has been attempted and is still being pursued. Much of earth's population has been brought under Communist domination, to a large extent unwillingly and not by free popular vote. The issue of whether to have a revolution and establish a radical government has been hurled in among the restless people. We, however, still maintain as heretofore our strict Christian neutrality toward the political controversies of this world. From the start we have pointed to the written Word of God to show that long life with peace and prosperity will never be brought by radical political governments of men who are not at peace with God. According to the unerring prophecies of God's Word, political radicalism must fail as a world remedy.

We will continue to disapprove of the dividing up of the religious people into clergy and laity. We have the Bible behind us in this position. The clergy and exalted religious leaders of Christendom have fallen short of their obligations toward people who look to them to guide them into peaceful relationship with God. Once holding a heaven-high position in which they could have shone like stars with spiritual enlightenment for their parishioners, they have fallen to earthly, materialistic levels, lacking real spiritual uplift. They have brought no life-sustaining refreshment to Christendom, not to say the rest of mankind. They have made bitter the potion that they have caused their people to drink, both by their sectarian doctrines and by the course in life into which they have directed the people. Because of this embitterment spiritual death has resulted to untold numbers.

We hold fast to the declaration that Christianity, not Christendom, is "the light of the world." As dedicated, baptized Christians we recognize our united obligation to serve as "the light of the world." (Matt. 5: 14-16) This obligation we, as Jehovah's witnesses, will continue to discharge by preaching and teaching His written Word. In this Scriptural manner we shall keep on trying to brighten the darkness for as many persons as possible in Christendom, which the clergy and high religious leaders have failed to enlighten spiritually or to bring into the light of God's favor.

We recognize Jesus Christ as our God-given religious Liberator. He has released us from religious subjection and deadness under Babylon the Great, the world empire of false religion, including Christendom. In

his own days on earth Jesus Christ spared not the religious feelings of the men who claimed to be God's ordained teachers and guides of the people. In imitation of him, we cannot hold back from pointing out to the trusting people of Christendom the delinquency of their clergy and other religious leaders before God. Even though this hurts the religious sensibilities of those religious leaders and is a woe to them, we shall continue to do this as long as we live and they are around in influential positions over Christendom. We will not join them in putting our hope and trust in any man-made international organization for world peace and security, but will continue to declare the doom of such organization.

We hold ourselves at God's disposal for his service at any time according to his appointment. He has untied us, loosed us from captivity to Babylon the Great, the figurative mistress of the Euphrates River. Our religious liberty being due to Jehovah God through Jesus Christ, we must use it in harmony with his will at this most crucial time in human history. In obedience to his Holy Bible we confess ourselves to be under orders to reveal to the people that there is no possibility for spiritual life now and everlasting life in the future in or by means of Christendom. She spells spiritual death for her tremendous church membership now and literal death for them in the fast-approaching "day of vengeance on the part of our God." We Christian witnesses of Jehovah are few in comparison with the 977,383,000 members of Christendom. But God has increased our capabilities as publishers of his present-day message a hundredfold, yes, double that. Through his own earthly organization he has supplied us hundreds of millions of printed pieces of literature, Bibles, books, booklets, magazines, tracts, as vehicles for us to ride in spiritual warfare against the strongholds of error in spiritually dead Christendom. By means of these myriads of publicity vehicles we shall carry out to the end our duty to declare the "day of vengeance on the part of our God," as a "woe" to Christendom.

Mankind's only hope for peace, happiness, prosperity, life, yes, resurrection of the dead, is God's Messianic kingdom. Happy is our privilege to announce to all nations the establishment of that kingdom in the heavens at the end of the Gentile Times in 1914. We join our voices with those in heaven in saying that the kingship of the world of mankind has become the kingship of our Lord God Jehovah and of his Messiah or Christ. We publicly thank Him that he has taken his great power and begun his everlasting reign by his Messiah, his Son Jesus.

We know that this kingdom means finally a disastrous woe to the political nations at the climax of the day of God's vengeance, but we will not fear their wrath because of this. Loyally we will, to the end, give our unqualified allegiance to God's Messianic kingdom. We will obey our reigning King Jesus Christ and carry out further his command to preach "this good news of the kingdom" everywhere for a witness to all the nations until their end comes. We will without letup turn teachable people to God's Messianic kingdom for realization of the hope of 'glory to God in the highest with peace on earth forever for his men of good will.'

Regular family Bible discussion and meeting attendance unite Witness families

Making My Home a House of God

Practical Suggestions for Family Living

In a world in which many families are plagued with disunity, problems and even tragedies, Jehovah's organization considerately set aside a portion of the assembly program to present timely information to parents on family living.

A Wholesome Home

"Is My Home Wholesome?" was the subject of the first talk, discussed from the standpoint of the parents. The speaker stressed that a wholesome home is one in which the members of the family have a genuine interest in one another as persons. True, they have different likes, dislikes, problems, feelings and desires, yet they enjoy being together. To have such a wholesome home, the father must take the lead in a loving way and exercise empathy. By doing things together a family is drawn more closely together and loyalty develops.

Communication Between Mates

The second part of the symposium dealt with the subject "As Husband and Wife, Do We Communicate?" In this talk, the need was highlighted of married persons' communicating with each other so as to deal understandingly with each other.

The speaker underscored the fact that communication is made easier when there is love, because it means that there is genuine concern for each other. To communicate effectively one needs to speak, hear and observe. Yes, it means talking things over so that one can know what is on the mind of one's mate.

The speaker warned against barriers to communication such as stubbornness, pride, anger and depression. He also warned against taking one's mate for granted. Communication enables a husband and a wife to enjoy living together. It builds and maintains warmth.

Getting Children to Confide in Parents

The third speaker, discussing the theme "Do Our Children Confide in Us?", highlighted the need of parents to face the problems of their children realistically. Do all Christian parents have the courage and take the time to provide a firm and loving guide that is needed so desperately by their children in these critical times?—this was the question.

Demonstrations were presented that enabled the audience to see how a child's confidence could be gained by taking time to discuss problems in an understanding way. The speaker emphasized that permissiveness will not encourage confidence and that discipline is vital.

Divided Households

The final part of the symposium drew the audience's attention to the subject "A Faithful Course in a Divided Household." The key point stressed by the speaker was that Witnesses who live in divided households should manifest godly qualities and adhere to Bible principles. By doing this, Jehovah's influence is increased in such homes. It promotes household peace and mutual understanding.

A believer's respectful loyalty to Jehovah's principles is a fine recommendation of Bible truth to an unbeliever. Yet the believer should understand the feelings of his unbelieving mate and that the changes the truth brings may disturb him. He might feel a loss and may resist in fear of losing what he has. Always keep the lines of communication open, said the speaker to believing marriage mates, and discuss your feelings and the reasons for your actions.

Should There Be a Generation Gap?

What accounts for the generation gap today? That was the question posed by the one who gave this timely talk. Directing his remarks to the young folks in attendance, he pointed out that television, radio and the faster modes of travel have played a part in it. Years ago parents and their young ones did things together. Today in the world they go their separate ways.

What can young Christians do to avoid this generation gap? The speaker explained that Bible principles form an excellent bulwark against this danger. Use them to decide on recreation and associations. The speaker also highlighted the need to show respect for mature persons because of their experience. They can benefit young folks. 'Make friends with older persons,' he told them, 'and do not stick just with young folks.'

Rights or Duties—Which?

This hour part of the program was truly delightful and so relevant to the times in which we live. The speaker informed the audience that the Bible does not stress rights but *duties*. Hence, Christians should not think that because something is common they may insist on such "rights."

A highly interesting demonstration was presented that enabled the audience to grasp the point of rights and duties. It dealt with a father handling the matter of his son's growing long hair and a beard. It was interesting to hear the youth's attempts to justify his course of action, especially his argument that beards were worn in Bible times. His father explained why the Israelites wore beards. It was because cutting their hair would have made them look like their pagan neighbors who cut their hair for their false gods.

The father helped his son to realize how his appearance was affecting the congregation. It was also affecting his opportunity for privileges of service in the congregation. His long hair and beard classified him with rebellious groups.

This program strengthened us all to seek to please our neighbors in what is upbuilding.

Loving Oversight of the CONGREGATION

The thousands of servants present at the assembly benefited from this three-part symposium the theme of which was helping others in the congregation by exercising *loving* oversight. These were urged not just to tell others what to do but to give help as it is needed. How this can be done was demonstrated repeatedly.

The conventioners learned that in the United States there are 31 district servants, 336 circuit servants, 5,365 overseers and tens of thousands of ministerial servants. The three talks impressed upon these servants their responsibility to provide "*loving* oversight" for the flock of God. In carrying out that responsibility much is required of them.

Show Empathy

Addressing the district and circuit servants, the first speaker in the symposium urged them to understand the circumstances in the congregations they serve so they can manifest real empathy. For them to get the best results, he said, there are several things they need to recognize. One of these is that they must be approachable and available to the brothers and sisters. How else can they exercise loving oversight?

District and circuit servants also need to have genuine appreciation for what the servants are doing in the congregations in addition to discharging their responsibilities to their families and secular employers. Such appreciation is encouraging to the servants and helps to cultivate a wholesome attitude.

When counseling or working with the servants, publishers and pioneers, the district and circuit servants need to be loving, the speaker said, not demanding and harsh. Every effort ought to be made to *build up*, not tear down. When this is done the visit of these brothers to a congregation can help to strengthen it.

A further requirement for good results is to give practical counsel along with a personal demonstration of zeal in the field ministry.

The speaker reminded the audience that district and circuit servants are humans just as they are and should not be feared. Fear prevents some publishers from cooperating with them in the ministry. So the speaker said: "We can make their work more gratifying and joyful if we cooperate with them" as the Scriptures admonish at Hebrews 13:17. They would then be able to make their visit more beneficial to individual publishers.

Overseers Counseled

Following this fine talk the next speaker in the symposium discussed the congregation servant. He pointed out that Jesus was the perfect model for the Christian overseer. Like him the overseer must be first a servant of Jehovah and second a servant of his brothers.

The overseer, it was stressed, needs to show loving consideration at all times. In dealing with matters he should ask himself: "What would be the loving way to handle this?"

Good counsel was directed to the overseer on how he can exercise loving oversight of the servants in the congregation. He cannot accomplish this by just telling them what to do but rather by giving them help as it is needed. This can create a good spirit among the servants because it shows that the overseer is not unreasonable in what he expects of them.

It was acknowledged that an overseer cannot do everything. For that reason the overseers were urged to train other servants so they can help them.

To Work as a Team

Splendid counsel was given to the ministerial servants by the third speaker in the symposium. He urged them to work as a team, each one giving "what is needed" just as is the case with the members of Christ's body. Teamwork among the servants helps a congregation to be proficient in the ministry. (Eph. 4:16) He went on to emphasize that, although the ministerial servants may be of widely varying ages, different backgrounds and either married or single, all should have the same goal of caring for the spiritual welfare of the "sheep."

It was pointed out by the speaker that, since the assistant congregation servant and Bible study servant, along with the overseer, form the congregation committee, they have to make decisions that affect the lives of others. They, therefore, need to be *understanding* men. They must use discernment. In their efforts to keep the congregation clean they need to temper justice with mercy. In support of this the speaker quoted James 2:13.

Each ministerial servant was admonished to be a slave to his brothers, diligently caring for his duties, not in a mechanical way but with genuine love for the "sheep." They were encouraged to visit the publishers in their homes, work with them in the field, help them attend meetings and visit them when they are sick. The servants need to understand the personal problems of the brothers without intruding into personal lives.

In conclusion the speaker called upon each servant and publisher to see his part in loving oversight and obedient submission. To these servants he expressed the feelings of those under their care by saying: "We deeply appreciate the servants for their love and understanding. Are we not happy that we have such men?"

Aid to Bible Understanding

What a fine instrument to aid us all to grow in understanding! This provision is the 544-page first volume of the publication, *Aid to Bible Understanding.* When completed, the work will contain thousands of articles arranged alphabetically, beginning with "Aaron" and continuing on through "Zuzim."

Just think of the benefits of this publication! In the complete work, the Society will endeavor to consider every person, place, plant and creature mentioned in the Bible. Thus, whenever you come across a Bible term that is unfamiliar, or about which you are not fully informed, you will find it very profitable to look it up in this publication.

For example, say that you were reading the Acts of the Apostles. Did you realize that in this Bible book alone there are at least 109 different geographical regions and places mentioned? Think how much greater your appreciation of the ministry of Peter, Paul and other faithful witnesses of that time can be if you learn something about each of these places and understand their relationship to one another.

The new *Aid* volume was released at the conclusion of the hour talk "With All That You Acquire, Acquire Understanding." At the outset the speaker noted the tremendous explosion in man's scientific knowledge in recent times, and asked: "Has it led people to healthier, happier, more secure, peaceful and productive lives? Has it helped man to get along better with his neighbor?" Really, it has not.

Thus, an increasing number of persons are looking elsewhere for answers. They seek a guide to help solve the everyday problems of life. Such a guide, the speaker observed, can be found in the Bible. But people need to understand what they read.

To assist in filling this need, preparation of *Aid to Bible Understanding* was undertaken. Five years ago, the speaker explained, the Watch Tower Society began its preparation. Some 250 brothers in more than 90 countries were invited to contribute to the research involved. Within the course of a year the material they gathered was sent to the headquarters of the Society. A special staff then began the checking of this material and doing much additional research. Now, five years later, there is still much work to do.

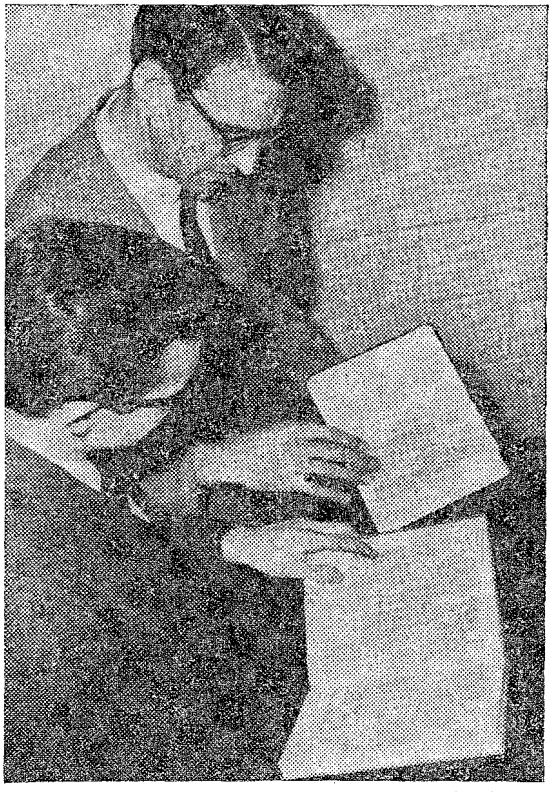
One may wonder why such a time-consuming project was undertaken. Are there not many reference works available today in the form of Bible commentaries and dictionaries and other encyclopedic publications? This is true, the speaker acknowledged. But while these works contain much that is helpful, they also include much that is unreliable, inaccurate or even false.

It was pointed out that although older reference works generally support the Bible's authority, they often proceed on the assumption of the reliability of religious traditions and doctrines not mentioned in or supported by the Bible. So a good portion of the material in these publications is colored by sectarian doctrines and religious creeds. And in more recent Bible dictionaries, the speaker said, there is usually a trend toward higher criticism. In fact, in many of these the accuracy of the Bible is openly denied.

The speaker drew attention to an example of this in *The Interpreter's Bible,* Volume 1, page 501. Commenting on chapter 3 of Genesis, it states:

"Man was forbidden on pain of death to eat of [the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil], the reason for the prohibition being God's fear that man, acquiring knowledge of good and evil, might become like him and, approaching too near his throne, might endanger his supremacy. But the serpent, a demon hostile to God, told the truth. He was thus no subtle tempter but, in intention, at least, a benefactor of the human race."

What a contrast this is to what the Bible teaches! The apostle Paul wrote early Christians: "I am afraid that somehow, as the serpent seduced Eve by its cunning, your minds might be corrupted away from the sincerity and the chastity that are due the Christ." (2 Cor. 11:3) Also, Jesus Christ called the original serpent, Satan the Devil, a "liar and the father of the lie," as well as a



Not only in title, but in actuality, new book proves itself "Aid to Bible Understanding"

"manslayer." (John 8:44) He did not call him a "benefactor of the human race."

The tendency in modern reference works is to discredit any intervention or direction of matters by God. The opinions and assertions of worldly "authorities" frequently are held forth in them as of greater reliability than what God says in his Word. In this regard, *Aid to Bible Understanding* differs from all other publications of a similar nature. For it consistently accepts the Bible as the principal authority and is guided by it.

The new *Aid* publication also is careful to avoid the error that many reference works make in giving exaggerated importance to archaeological finds. It recognizes that many of the archaeologists' conclusions are based on conjecture, even imagination. How unwise, therefore, to try to build understanding, conviction and faith on an archaeological foundation!

To illustrate this, the example can be cited of Ezion-geber down by the Gulf of Aqabah. A prominent archaeologist some years ago claimed to have uncovered here ruins of a huge copper-smelting industry of King Solomon's time. This interpretation of the evidence was accepted for many years. But with the accumulation of more evidence the archaeologist acknowledged that his interpretation was incorrect. The Bible itself makes no mention of a copper industry at Ezion-geber.

The editing staff of *Aid to Bible Understanding* has endeavored to stay true to Bible facts, yet, at the same time, it has taken into account other sources of information. We can be happy indeed to have an aid that holds closely to God's Word and builds up our faith and confidence in it.

Demonstrating Its Use

During the evening session following the release of the *Aid* book an hour program demonstrated various ways in which this new publication can be used. Of course, the Society plans for us to cover at least its major subjects in the Theocratic Ministry School next year. But we need not wait until then to become acquainted with this new instrument.

Rather, we do well to familiarize ourselves with its contents as soon as possible. This can be done simply by going through it, looking at each page, noting subject headings, pictures, charts and maps. In this way we will obtain a comprehensive view, and thus be alerted to use it when needed. Next we might begin reading articles that attract our attention.

The program employed two families to illustrate how material in the *Aid* volume can be covered and profitably used. The father of one family explained that during his lunch hour he picks out major articles to read, such as the ones on Architecture; Bank, Banker; Bread; Cheese and Copper. He is able to use information from such articles in incidental witnessing to fellow workers.

It was also noted that when reading the daily text a word may be mentioned concerning which one desires more information. For example, the comments on the text for July 9 speak of Antioch as the city to which Paul returned after his second missionary tour and from which he began his third tour. One may wonder what kind of city this was that Paul chose as his "home base."

The *Aid* book explains that it was the third-largest city in the Roman Empire! It was a commercial center located on a major trade route. Certainly Paul exercised wisdom in choosing this city. It reminds one of the present-day use by the Watch Tower Society of the commercial center New York city from which to direct the worldwide Kingdom preaching.

By means of demonstration it was illustrated how the *Aid* book can assist youths in preparing school reports. For example, should an assignment be given to prepare a report on trees, there are interesting *Aid* articles on Acacia, Almond, Apple, Balsam, Cassia, Date and Ebony trees that might be utilized. And when false ideas are presented in school, these can be corrected by *Aid* articles such as Alphabet; Assyria; Creation; Earth; Egypt, Egyptian and Chronology.

Really, there is no end to the profitable information in this scholarly new publication. If we just remember to use it when we desire additional or background information on any Bible subject that arises on any occasion, we will indeed be greatly enlightened and benefited.

The Coming "GREAT TRIBULATION"

Conventioners, as they listened to the talk entitled "Peace with God amid the 'Great Tribulation,'" had the privilege of taking a fresh look at the vital, prophetic words of Jesus recorded at Matthew 24:3-22.

As the speaker developed his theme it became apparent that all the events there mentioned by Jesus had a literal application upon the Jewish nation. And this led up to the "great tribulation" experienced by Judea and Jerusalem in the year 70 C.E. That "tribulation" did not begin with General Cestius Gallus' abortive attack on the city. It started when the legions under General Titus closed in on the city, completely cutting it off from outside help and leading on to its destruction.

But what of the duration of the tribulation? It was "cut short." (Matt. 24:22) It was very brief. In fact, history tells us it lasted somewhat less than six months. For the sake of his "chosen ones," Jesus' followers, Jehovah did not permit Jerusalem's "great tribulation" even to begin until his genuine worshipers had fled beyond Judea's borders. Once that had taken place, God permitted the execution of his purpose against faithless Jewry to go forward swiftly. Not a long-drawn-out carnage that would snuff out all of the besieged. No, because some Jewish "flesh" was to survive. And survive it did, for some 97,000 Jews were carried off into slavery. Not all Jewish "flesh" perished in Jerusalem's tribulation.

Another striking point made by the speaker was that there was no real dividing point between Jesus' words at verse 6 and those at verse 7. History tells us that Judeans of that time not only heard reports of distant wars, but also were directly involved in wars and revolts.

But was Matthew 24:14 an exception, something to be fulfilled only in a later age? No, because the preaching of the "good news" by those zealous first-century Christians spread throughout all the then known world. (Col. 1:23) That preaching, the signal for flight from Jerusalem, and the actual flight beyond the Jordan, were all events that must take place before the city would be enveloped in her greatest of all tribulations. And they all did take place.

A Modern Application?

In view of this, are we wrong in applying this entire prophecy by Jesus to the period from 1914 C.E. to the battle of the great day of God the Almighty? The answer of the speaker was, No! Why?

First, because, in answer to the three-part question, Jesus was also referring to the time of his second "presence." (Matt. 24:3) Further, the Gentile times were to continue after Jerusalem's destruction in 70 C.E. down to 1914 C.E. (Luke 21:24) Also, it is to be noted that there were other features of Jesus' prophecy, running through to Matthew 25:46, that were not fulfilled at Jerusalem's destruction in 70 C.E. Thus it becomes clear that Jesus, in giving his prophetic discourse, also had in mind something immensely bigger than the destruction of literal Jerusalem. He employed unfaithful Jerusalem of his day as a type of the antitypical unfaithful Jerusalem, namely, Christendom. So what took place as regards Jerusalem and all Judea nineteen hundred years ago tells us about a modern application now swiftly nearing its climax.

Notice how both periods have been marked by the same features, though the modern parallel by more far-reaching events on a scale unprecedented in human history.

Now, though engulfed in the ever-worsening anguish and distress that Jesus foretold, Christendom still faces the "great tribulation." Hers will be a tribulation that is bound to affect her political associates and patrons world wide.

So, what, then, is the "great tribulation"? It has not yet begun. As the speaker declared: "The 'great tribulation' such as will not occur again is yet ahead, for it means the destruction of the world empire of false religion (including Christendom) followed by the 'war of the great day of God the Almighty' at Armageddon against the political allies of Babylonish false religion."

And how is the "great tribulation" cut short? Not by being cut in the middle, as we once thought, but by God's concentrating it within a cut-short time period. It will not be a long-drawn-out period of time, but God can make it 'a swift work,' as the speaker said. He can bring an end to this wicked system "in a speedy way, in no prolonged order." This will permit the saving of 'some flesh,' since ordinarily frail human 'flesh' would, without divine protection, be unable to endure the lengthening too long of this "great tribulation."

With this more accurate understanding of Jesus' prophetic words at Matthew chapter 24, ministers of God's Word will be better equipped to enlighten honest-hearted persons. Knowing that Jesus' words had a *literal* application upon Jerusalem and Judea, they will be able to meet the objection often expressed that these conditions also existed prior to the year 1914. They can also encourage listeners with the knowledge that 'not all flesh will perish' in that "great tribulation." Jehovah has in view those lovers of truth and righteousness who may be hid in the day of his burning anger—people who may survive and populate the earth, which he made to be a paradise home for obedient humans.

"Let no man ever look down on your youth"

A live two-hour drama entitled "Let No Man Ever Look Down on Your Youth" vividly focused attention on the problems confronting youths and parents and their struggle to lead moral and upright lives in today's world.

The drama was the climax of an entire day devoted to young people at the "Peace on Earth" International Assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses. It was a day filled with frank talks, engrossing discussions and demonstrations, topped off by the drama, in modern setting.

The Drama and Its Characters

The story centers principally around five young persons. The principal character, Tim, demonstrates by his own course of action and the counsel that he gives to other young people that there are those in God's organization who are good examples and who can be mature even though young in years. And what a blessing it is to have such youths among us today!

By way of contrast, parents of two of the other youths in the drama are shown to have failed in their responsibility. The result is that their youngsters become involved in the world and are disfellowshiped. These parents demonstrated extremes in parental care.

In one instance, Molly, the mother of the girl Diana, was too permissive. On the other hand, Buzz' parents were overly restrictive and tried to protect him from the reality of life itself. Both of these youngsters had the fine association of youths in the New World society, but they did not appreciate it. Their dress and language showed them to be still worldly. They scoffed at making over their personalities. Buzz was told that his language was disrespectful. But he laughs at the counsel and thinks himself smart, superior. Diana, on the other hand, was told that her short skirts and familiarity with worldly boys would lead to no good. But she pooh-poohs the fine advice. Her parents fail to help her. They think they know better. Eventually both children reap the fruit of their own sowing: Diana becomes involved in fornication, and Buzz turns to drugs and crime—their lives ruined for failing to heed the sound counsel of God's Word!

Benny, in the drama, portrays another group of youngsters today who more or less are forced to stand alone. His parents are not Christians. But young Benny loves the truth of God's Word. Though weak in willpower, he does have the right attitude. When tempted into a course of wrongdoing, he goes to the overseer, confesses his wrong and seeks help. He offers information that helps to uncover a serious wrong in the congregation. He also associates with Tim, who proves to be a source of encouragement in his moments of trial. Tim shows his mature attitude by continuing to make progress, not only on his own part, but also in assisting other young people, such as Benny.

The Problems Confronted

The drama faced the issues of youthful life boldly and expressed the struggle of youth in the language and style of today among young people. It did not uphold or recommend the slang and the bad speech used. The desirable language was expressed by Tim and Cathy and their overseer Myron.

The point of the drama was to spotlight the problems facing youth, and this it did. The dangers of drug addiction in schools flashed frighteningly before the parents' eyes. The smoking of marijuana by teen-agers, stealing, homosexuality, fornication, masturbation and rebellion were all treated with frankness.

The parents were made to feel deeply their responsibility as Christians, that theirs is the obligation to train and guide their young in pathways of righteousness, that this is to be done first by example, then by counsel and guidance.

The congregation, too, through its servant body should stand ever ready to help the youths in the New World society. All of this direction and concern should be reinforced by means of a regular study of the Holy Scriptures and the Society's publications. Those who take advantage of these provisions are helped to walk uprightly, serving as fine Christian examples during these trying times.

Young people whose actions resemble those of Buzz or Diana were warned that unless they set out promptly to make serious changes in their lives, they, too, will be headed for certain and serious trouble and ruination of their lives. "We cannot toy with immorality in any form and not eventually fall into sin," they were told. "The pressures of this system's corrupt standard are too great to resist if we incline at all in that direction," was the clear warning.

An appeal was made to parents not to wait for their child to make a serious mistake before they realized that he needed their help and love. "Your children are your responsibility. Jehovah himself has placed that responsibility directly upon your shoulders," they were told. You cannot give that responsibility away, nor can it be taken away from you. So see that your children are marked with a Christian personality before Armageddon strikes.—Ezek. 9:5, 6.

A Close Relationship Needed

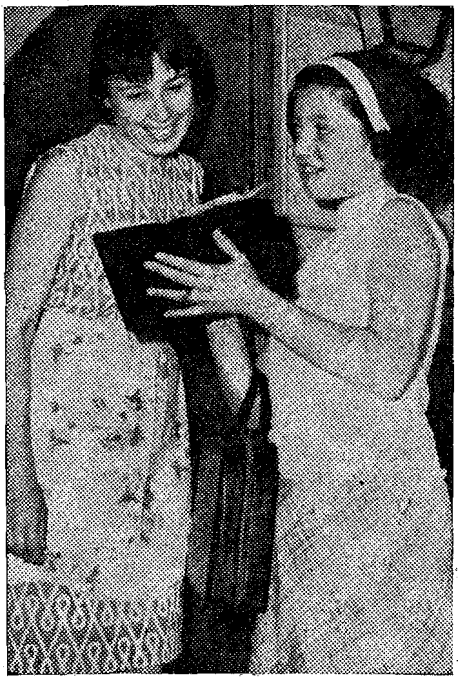
Cultivate a warm and confidential relationship with your children. Teach them to take you into their confidence. If you have this loving understanding, you

have gained a great treasure. Cherish it. Use it to their lasting good.

The work of parents and servants in the Christian congregation is not to take children out of this world by overshielding them. Their job is to keep children from becoming a part of the world's system. This can be done, not only by teaching them the principles of God's Word and how to make right decisions, but also by setting before them a true Christian example. It is important that their lives be filled with wholesome activity and their minds occupied with matters that are morally strengthening. Also, show them the dangers of toying with any kind of immorality.

Parents were counseled to inform their children about the dangers of masturbation or self-abuse. "In almost 100 percent of those cases of homosexuality uncovered in the congregations, those involved had first fallen victims of the practice of habitual self-abuse, many from early childhood," it was pointed out to the audience. "This can be prevented or cured," they were told. When you return home from this assembly, why not sit down with your children and study the "Questions from Readers" in the September 1, 1959, *Watchtower*, which deals with self-abuse? Also study the articles on self-control in the July 1, 1967, issue of *The Watchtower*. Look up all the scriptures and talk about their application to the problems at hand.

'If what you have seen in the last couple of hours appears somewhat overplayed or exaggerated,' said the narrator of the drama, 'well, it wasn't.' In fact, it barely suggests the extent of the problems encompassing youth today. The raw details are too shocking to portray on stage. Therefore, parents were cautioned not to minimize the reality of youth's problems at hand and the depth of the corruption of this wicked system of things. What the apostle Paul wrote to the Romans (1:26-32) applies in every detail today, and the young are involved.



Young publisher of Kingdom makes good use of Bible

Young folks reporting for work; they devote energy to Jehovah's service at Watchtower printing plant

Count on God's Care

Never stop growing spiritually. Never stop recognizing the need to use your minds wisely, the youth at the assembly were told, because the mind and heart are the sources of your conduct. (Matt. 15:18; Prov. 5:1, 2) And remember, God cares. He is interested in every one of the youth who turns to him, the audience heard as the narrator summarized the drama in a fourteen-minute conclusion. "Don't ever make the mistake of thinking he [God] has lost sight of you or has forgotten you. Not unless you have forgotten him or have tried to get away from his sight." Youths were encouraged to establish a close, personal relationship with Jehovah, to go to him regularly in prayer, to seek God's mind on everything and always ask themselves before becoming involved, "Would Jesus do this?"

In closing, the speaker declared: "So, all you fine young men and women in Jehovah's organization, listen to the apostle Paul, who was like a father to Timothy, and to you too. Listen carefully to what he said: 'Let no man ever look down on your youth. On the contrary, become an example to the faithful ones in speaking, in conduct, in love, in faith, in chasteness.' And Jehovah will certainly bless you richly as you do."

A Good Time To Be Baptized

This "Peace on Earth" International Assembly was a splendid time for newly dedicated persons to be baptized. Since an international assembly is an exceptional event for Jehovah's witnesses, it is fine to have it associated with one's baptism.

To the baptism candidates gathered in a roped-off section of seats at this "Peace on Earth" assembly a speaker directed comments about what they had done so as to be there and of the responsibilities resting upon them. He observed that some there may have had to alter their way of life to bring it into harmony with God's high moral requirements.

Having recognized that Christians follow the pattern set by Jesus with regard to baptism, these lovers of righteousness had proceeded to take the steps that lead to baptism. After completing the required course of study, they approached the congregation overseer and expressed their desire to be baptized. He began to review them on the basic teachings of the Bible as outlined in the "*Lamp*" book to see if they were qualified. This was a beneficial procedure as it assured that they knew what they were doing and were qualified to be acknowledged as ministers of Jehovah God.

A brief demonstration showed how the overseer had done this. Those in the audience who had not as yet been baptized were thus able to see what the review involves.

A Serious Step

The speaker reminded the candidates that baptism is a serious step because of its meaning. It signifies the ordination of those baptized. It marks them as ministers of Jehovah God. This does not mean, the speaker observed, that their ordination comes from the one doing the baptizing or from the Watch Tower Society. It comes from Jehovah God. That he has ordained them is indicated by the fact that his organization has accepted them as being qualified and has baptized them.

He emphasized the fact that Jehovah expects those who promise to serve him faithfully as his ministers to fulfill that promise. This is a reasonable expectation in view of all the benefits that come from him. (Ps. 116:12) Regularly engaging in the ministry is a very important way to show they are keeping their promise. The speaker also remarked that once they are baptized all of Jehovah's witnesses can in a full sense call them "brothers" and "sisters" because they become God's "men of good will."

After answering Yes to the two questions put to all candidates for baptism, they and the audience bowed their heads in prayer. Then they proceeded to the place for their baptism. The closing words of the speaker expressed the feelings of the thousands who watched and listened: "We are very happy for you and wish Jehovah's blessing on you throughout eternity."

Congregation servant reviews basic Bible teachings with baptismal candidates

BIBLE QUESTIONS ANSWERED

A get-together in the home of an overseer was the setting for a discussion of Bible questions.

The question of whether a Christian would attend a church funeral came up. It was shown that various factors must be weighed. For instance, a wife in a divided household would have to consider her husband's headship, just as Naaman considered his orders from the Syrian king. (2 Ki. 5:18) But the dangers of attending were emphasized, including the pressure to share in idolatry and the possibility of stumbling others. (Phil. 1:10) As an alternative to attending, visiting the bereaved at the funeral parlor or at their home was mentioned.

The next question dealt with the meaning of the prayer: "Do not bring us into temptation." (Matt. 6:13) James 1:13 was cited as evidence that Jehovah does not try anyone with evil. It was concluded that God does "not bring us into temptation" in that he alerts us to temptation and he strengthens us so we can avoid or endure it.

When discussing the proper attitude toward a member of one's family who is disfellowshiped, stress was laid on the counsel at 2 John 9-11. It was explained that even if the disfellowshiped person was in the same household, such as one's wife, spiritual fellowship would cease. And if the disfellowshiped relative was outside the household, then the faithful Christian would not want to talk to that one at all. There might be some *rare* and *absolutely* necessary family business, but the Christian would bear in mind the requirement to 'quit mixing in company with such a one.'

The final question dealt with the exciting prophecy about the "king of the north" and the "king of the south." All were reminded that the Bible does not allow for a nuclear World War III that would destroy humanity. Rather, Daniel shows that these two "kings" will exist down till Armageddon. (Dan. 11:45; 8:25) But for Christians there yet remains the vicious attack of Gog of Magog. They will need to endure that attack with God's help.

SHARING MORE FULLY *in* GOD'S SERVICE

This is the day for the final harvest. By the tens of thousands honest-hearted persons are being collected into God's organization. Can you share more fully in this final ingathering work? Can you enlarge your privileges of service? These were questions set squarely before the assembly delegates during a very thought-provoking program.

The Call to Pioneer

In the half-hour talk "The Call to Pioneer—A Grand Personal Opportunity," the speaker explained that the number of publishers in Jehovah's organization had swelled to a peak of 1,221,504 in 200 lands. Just last year nearly 83,000 persons were baptized, he said. How different from the churches of Christendom where clergymen by the hundreds are leaving the ministry! Yet there is still an urgent need for full-time workers in Jehovah's organization.

There are many counties with populations of over 10,000 that are unassigned, he said. And according to the Society's service office: "There are congregations that are urgently in need of help. . . . There is still much work to be done in this country" for those who can make room for the pioneer service.

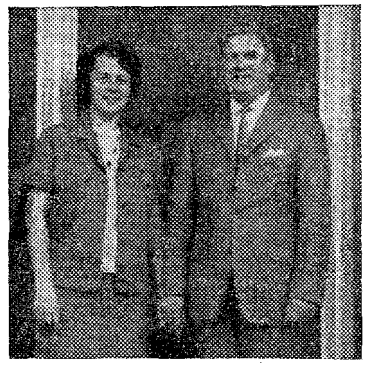
So there is a grand personal opportunity to share more fully in God's service. The call to pioneer is still being extended. Jehovah God himself is issuing the invitation. Appreciate the grand opportunity, the speaker urged, and act now. If it is at all possible, enter the pioneer work.

Staying in Full-Time Service

Responding to the call of the full-time service, however, is only the first step. In the following talk, "How to Stay in Full-Time Service," the speaker explained that it takes real determination, personal organization and planning to stay in it.

Full-time service is not for lazy persons, it was stressed. It requires initiative. One must plan a schedule of activity and stick to it. The speaker suggested getting an early start in the day; also putting in 30 hours a week early in the month. This will assure exceeding the 100-hour-a-month goal. By doing this, he said, a pioneer will be able to meet his goals should sickness or other circumstances interfere with his service later in the year.

The speaker pointed to the wise counsel of the pioneer Jesus, who said 'not to be anxious over material needs but to seek the Kingdom first.' (Matt. 6: 31-33) True, he observed, obtaining suitable part-time work to provide needed income is often a big hurdle. Yet there are many possibilities for employment—sewing, cleaning, painting, washing windows, and so forth.



Will and Editha Pohl, when teen-agers, were in concentration camp for their faith; have persevered in full-time service since 1947

The apostle Paul, he noted, did not consider sewing tents beneath his dignity in order to support himself in the ministry, despite his legal abilities. Neither should we look down on common labor if it can support us in the full-time service.

Enlarging Our Privileges

Regardless of whether our circumstances allow us to pioneer, we can all have an increased share in the ministry. This was the point stressed in the next half-hour discourse, "Enlarging Our Privileges of Service in the Time Remaining."

It was pointed out that perhaps we can put *full days* in the ministry on a regular basis. Maybe, too, we can vacation pioneer at times during the year. Or we might find that we can move to a place where the need for ministers is greater.

Also, we can increase our effectiveness in the ministry. Especially can we improve in our teaching ability, the speaker said. Perhaps we can take on another Bible study by conducting two in an evening.

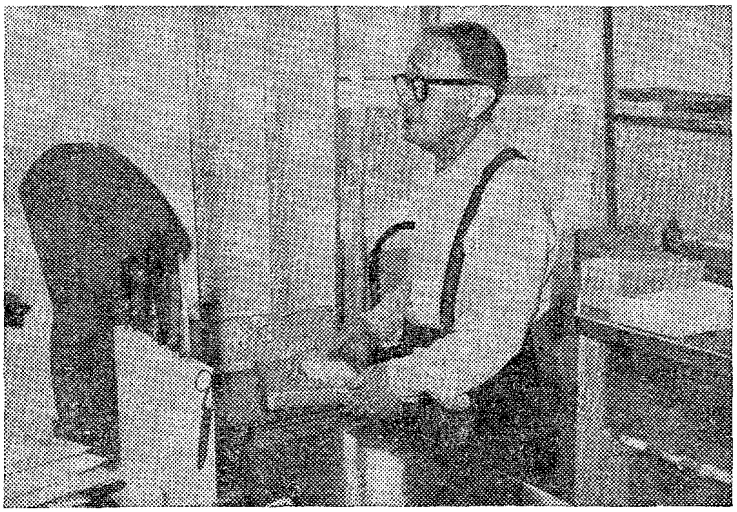
The time remaining is very short, the speaker emphasized. We should want to do all we can to assist sheeplike ones to God's place of safety before it is too late.

What Is Your Security?

The course of life one pursues reveals to what he looks for security. Is it money and the things money can buy, or is it God's promise of everlasting life? The half-hour talk "What Is Your Security—Your Home? Your Bank Account? Your Job?" raised direct questions for each one in the audience to answer personally.

How much time and interest are you giving toward a home? the speaker asked. Are you continually concerned with improving it, wanting the latest furnishings, and so forth? Are you discontented and trying to keep up with the Joneses?

Maybe, he added, you plan to buy a home, thus burdening



Benno Burczyk has stayed with his service assignment at Brooklyn Bethel for over 45 years

yourself with monthly payments. Will you still be able to put Kingdom interests first? Can you forgo a new home and perhaps serve where the need is greater? he asked. Which would really provide the most lasting security?

Advertisements of the world say real security is a financial "nest egg," a substantial bank account. But is it really? The speaker pointed to the instability of the economy, and how fast the value of money can disappear. He asked: What situation do you want to be in at the time of Jehovah's anger—to have little or no money in the bank and an acceptable record in God's service, or a large bank account and a poor record of service?

How about your job? Do you consider it to be real security? Or are you willing to change your job for a better service schedule? the speaker asked. What comes first, your job or congregation meetings and service?

Sometimes the circumstances arise where one is offered overtime work with more pay. Accepting this may mean that more material things can be purchased.

So the question is: Which will you place first—attendance at congregation meetings and a full share in the field ministry, or money and the things that it can buy? There is only one wise course to take, the speaker concluded, and that is to listen to God's Word and trust in Him for security.

Are You a Modern-Day Jonah?

To sum up these points and drive them home to the audience, a penetrating hour-and-thirty-five minute drama was presented that assisted each one to examine his own attitude toward Jehovah's service. The experiences of Jonah, in the Bible, laid the basis for the drama.

The modern-day setting was at a congregation just before a talk by the circuit servant.

All proceeded to their seats as the program began. The circuit servant's subject was "Are You a Modern-Day Jonah?" He pointed out that, although Jonah was God's prophet, he was human and had imperfections. Jonah describes his own shortcomings in the Bible. So, the circuit servant continued: "We will discuss the lesson the account itself has for each one of us here at this very time and in the conditions that surround us."

The drama was not acted out, but only the voices of the various characters were heard. First, there was the voice of God's angel commissioning Jonah to go to Nineveh to preach to the Ninevites.

But Jonah reasoned: "Why, that's a 500-mile journey across the desert! . . . What benefit could possibly come from going up there to that city filled with bloodshed? . . . I know what I'll do! I'll get as far from Nineveh as I can get. I'll go first to the port of Joppa. . . . There I can find a ship going to Tarshish."

At this point the circuit servant interrupted to ask: "Parents, are you overprotective and actually putting your son or daughter on the road to Joppa? Are you . . . instilling in them a Jonah-like attitude, that an assignment outside of your sphere of influence might be too burdensome for them? . . .

"Or perhaps you're an interested [but undedicated] person who has been studying for quite some time, already speaking about the truth of God's kingdom . . . You, too, could be following a Jonah-like course. . . .

"Will you [who have recently graduated from school] seriously and fully travel on the road to Nineveh, as commanded? Or will you get on the road to Joppa, in order to become less involved in the service of the Kingdom? . . .

"Think, those of you who are planning to enter into the marital arrangement. . . . Where will your marriage be leading you? To a settled foundation anchored into a modern home and its comforts that you really cannot afford? . . . Are you choosing the road to Nineveh, to responsibility, spirituality and availability to the service, or the road to Joppa?"

The following scenes of the drama (only the voices being heard) showed Jonah purchasing his ticket for the 2,000-mile trip to Tarshish, and the storm and Jonah being cast overboard. Finally, additional scenes portrayed Jonah in Nineveh preaching, the repentance of the Ninevites and Jonah's experiences with the bottle-gourd plant. After each scene the circuit servant made brief points of application to the Jonah-like course persons in the modern Christian congregation could be taking.

The conclusion of the drama contained scenes portraying the effect that this material had upon the publishers who heard the talk.

Release of "KINGDOM INTERLINEAR TRANSLATION"

What a pleasure to have released to us at this "Peace on Earth" International Assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses *The Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures!* This 1,184-page clothbound volume will greatly add to our effectiveness as ministers of the Word of God. Now one can check on the basic meaning of the original Greek words, without necessarily having a knowledge of the Greek language.

This is possible because this new publication presents the literal English translation below each Greek word in the left column of the page, while in the right column is provided a revision of the *New World Translation.* Thus, at a glance the reader can compare the basic idea of the Greek word with its counterpart in the finished English translation.

The speaker who announced release of this new interlinear translation during the talk "The Writing of Correct Words of Truth" pointed out from the Holy Scriptures themselves that "words of truth" are necessary in explaining or translating the life-giving message of the Bible. Truthful translation must be free of preconceived ideas on the part of the translator. He also reminded his listeners that interlinear translation has had a long history, some notable works having been published in the seventeenth century. However, *The Kingdom Interlinear Translation* has distinct advantages.

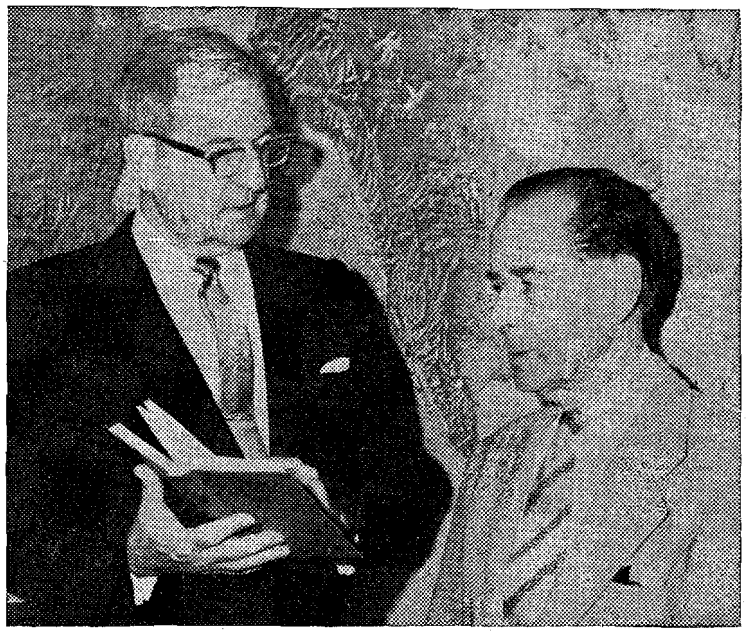
During their five years of labor on this translation the New World Bible Translation Committee had ready access to several of those older works. Though claiming no direct inspiration for their production, they do give credit to Jehovah God for his guidance of their thinking through personal study of the Scriptures. They had the advantage of a Greek text, published by Westcott and Hort, that was published at least a hundred years later than that used in that other well-known interlinear translation, *The Emphatic Diaglott.* They could thus avail themselves of the considerable strides made in Greek scholarship.

Right away, of course, we are interested in knowing how this new work compares with the *Diaglott.* Well, it should be noted that the *Diaglott* retains archaic expressions. It does not always give the basic, literal meaning of the Greek words, and so quite often the English of its interlinear rendering and that of its finished translation is identical. This, at times, can produce difficulties.

It is good to know, too, that one does not have to defer to the pretensions of clergymen who, as the speaker at the convention stated, "come along and try to overawe sincere Bible students by claiming to know the original Bible language." It will be a simple matter for users of this *Kingdom Interlinear Translation* to compare the claims of such men with the basic thought presented by the Greek words.

Even to those familiar with the Watch Tower Society's regular policy of making Bible-study aids available at nominal cost to all interested persons, it was a pleasant surprise to receive this valuable volume on a contribution of only $2.

As the speaker indicated, to Jehovah must go the credit for directing men's minds toward a clearer understanding of His Word of truth.



N. H. Knorr and F. W. Franz making plans for release of "Kingdom Interlinear Translation"

FORTIFIED TO Maintain Integrity

The hour-long feature "Fortify Yourselves so as to Maintain Integrity" truly gave all who heard it a powerful impetus to fortify themselves now so that they will be able to stand in times of stress and trial that are certain to come.

This feature began with an audio presentation of the encounter of the youth David with the giant Goliath. The speaker handling this feature then asked a number of searching questions: 'Do we realize that superhuman forces are trying to break our integrity? that the time to prepare is NOW? But how are we going to do it?'

'The apostle Paul tells us how to come off winners,' the speaker continued. Attention was directed to the forceful and timely counsel of Paul concerning the need to 'put on the complete suit of armor from God and to stand firm.' (Eph. 6:11-18) In order to impress the vital importance of being clad with each part of the Christian armor a series of gripping experiences were enacted.

Keeping Integrity Under Trials

The first scene showed a young woman in a concentration camp, cold and alone. She has already spent two years in that rat- and bug-infested place, but she continues going over scriptures in her mind. Thus, she holds firm in spite of the urgings of one who has compromised and who tells of the comforts she now enjoys. Nevertheless, instead of being set free as she had expected, the compromising one is executed.

This scene certainly underscored the wisdom of pursuing an uncompromising course. At its conclusion the speaker noted that, true to his promise, God does not permit us to be tried beyond the limits we can bear.—1 Cor. 10:13.

Next, the importance of keeping on the "breastplate of righteousness" was emphasized by the speaker. Just how some have done this and others have failed to do so was illustrated by four striking scenes.

One of these showed a student in Greece who refused to compromise by making the sign of the cross and attending church mass. "Your education is at stake," pleaded his professor. "Just kind of *shake your hand* at the time of prayer, pretending to make the sign of the cross, and attend church service with us, and believe none of it." Finally, the youth's firm stand for Christian principles won the respect of his professor, and he arranged matters so that the boy could complete his schooling without compromising.

Enrique Glass, imprisoned as a Witness 8 years by Trujillo, still zealous in full-time service, now as district servant in Dominican Republic

To illustrate the further counsel to have 'feet shod with the good news of peace,' a scene showed two sisters gossiping about servants in the congregation, thus raising unwarranted suspicions about their conduct. 'This certainly is no way to keep one's feet shod with the good news of peace,' the speaker said.

The importance of wearing the "helmet of salvation" was next shown by a report from Liberia. It told of a number of Christians who, by keeping their minds fixed on the prize of eternal life, endured nineteen days of cruel persecution. One of the prisoners, a fifty-six-year-old sister, was even congratulated by the prison commissioner because of her endurance.

How to fortify ourselves by means of "the large shield of faith" was portrayed by Brother Harold King's description of his solitary confinement in a Chinese Communist prison. A tape recording was played that explained how he kept his faith strong by doing preaching and teaching to imaginary persons.

And finally a dramatic true-life episode of a thirteen-year-old girl suffering from leukemia was reenacted. It showed vividly how "the sword of the spirit," the Word of God, enables Christians to come off victorious.

The doctor claimed that only blood transfusions could save little Renate. She answered him kindly, but courageously: "Thank you for offering to help me, but I would rather die faithful to Jehovah God than to violate his command in order to live a little while longer."

In conclusion the speaker exhorted: "Therefore, brothers, put on the whole suit of armor; we need all of it. Fortify yourselves so as to maintain integrity."

Standing Firm Though Persecuted

Very appropriately, this stirring program was immediately preceded by two half-hour discourses that also were designed to fortify Christians to maintain integrity.

The first was entitled "How to Stand Firm in This Time of the End." The speaker urged all to prepare now for the coming of persecution. This can be done, he said, by regular personal study of God's Word, by participating in meetings and carefully following what is said. Also, by continually praying to Jehovah for help in caring for theocratic

assignments, and by learning to fix our mind on the hope of eternal life in his new system.

Then should severe persecution actually come, what is the key to standing firm? Even though we may be restrained from possessing a Bible, we can meditate on the Scriptures, going over in our mind the things we have previously studied. Also, we can draw close to Jehovah, praying to him as did Paul, Silas and Daniel. (Acts 16:25; Dan. 6:10) And we can dwell on the hope of life ahead. This will take our mind off the suffering and dispel fear.

If our work is banned, the speaker observed, then meetings can be arranged in small groups, with persons arriving at the place singly or in twos. To avoid attracting attention, the singing can be dispensed with. 'In carrying on the preaching,' the speaker explained, 'call on one house in a block, and then call on another somewhere else.'

The second talk, "Happy Are You When People Persecute You," showed the need of having the right attitude toward persecution. The speaker made clear that, although suffering itself does not make a Christian happy, suffering because of doing God's will does, for it glorifies God and assures one of His approval and everlasting life. It was also stressed that the persecuted Christian should not have a vengeful attitude, but one of forgiveness, desiring sincerely that persecutors will change and become believers.

Three-Part Symposium

Earlier the same day a symposium of three twenty-minute talks made clear just what course of life is pleasing to God and is in harmony with his Word. The first, "Whom Do You Serve?", stressed that we actually have a need to serve God and that service means obedience, which is better than a sacrifice.

The second talk, "You Are No Part of the World," emphasized the need of Christians to keep separate from the world.

And the third talk, "Appreciating the Organization That Is Educating Us for Life," showed why we should appreciate God's organization, as it is the only one that can direct us to eternal life. Such appreciation does much to help us maintain integrity.

Zeal for the Work Yet to Be Done

On the last day of the "Peace on Earth" assembly it was forcefully impressed on all present that the Kingdom preaching is not yet completed. There is still much work to be done.

This point was particularly stressed in the half-hour discourse "There Is Work Yet to Be Done." The speaker asked: 'Why has not Armageddon come before now? Is it because the world is not yet bad enough?' No, this is not the reason, the speaker explained. Rather, it is because that part of the "sign" about giving the "witness to all the nations" has not been fulfilled sufficiently. Only when this is accomplished will the end come.—Matt. 24:14.

The speaker then urged all to be zealous for Jehovah's service in the time yet remaining. "Work hard at what God gives us to do," he said. "Preach and teach. Why not join the more than 50,000 now in full-time service?" Then, directly addressing the younger ones, he asked: "How many of you school-age ones will vacation pioneer this summer?" He reminded them that there is still time to sign up.

In the session's other half-hour talk, entitled "Among the Congregated Throngs I Shall Bless Jehovah," the speaker stressed the need to demonstrate zeal by attending the five weekly meetings of the Christian congregation. 'And while there,' he urged, actively listen and participate by commenting at the meetings.'

Zealously Benefiting from Deliverance

The need to demonstrate zeal for Jehovah's service was also driven home in the thought-provoking hour-and-a-half Bible drama "Do Not Miss the Purpose of Jehovah's Deliverance."

The drama opened up with a modern setting, at the home of Stan and Rita Firm, who had as guests the Steadfast couple. The Steadfast couple have zeal for Jehovah's work, and so are going to serve where the need is greater, whereas Brother Firm is wondering about accepting a large pay raise that might cut into his theocratic activities. He has an enthusiastic daughter, and a grown son who is irregular at meetings and in publishing but who could be a pioneer.

To stimulate zeal in the Firm family, Brother Steadfast points to something in the "*Babylon*" book. It has to do with the fall of Babylon the Great and what it means for Christians. Brother Steadfast then draws attention to the parallel between ancient Babylon's fall and that of modern Babylon, and suggests: "Let's try to picture it like this. Suppose Daniel were sitting in his home, talking to some of the Jews in Babylon."

The scene that immediately follows shows a group with Daniel in Babylon. The discussion drives home the point that the reason why Jehovah spared the Jews in Babylon from destruction and had Cyrus proclaim their release was that they could return to Jerusalem to restore true worship there. This point is made primarily for the benefit of a prosperous Jew who does not intend to return to Jerusalem because of selfish reasons. By failing to leave Babylon he surely would miss the purpose of God's deliverance and would risk losing his faith in God.

The final scene returns to modern times and applies the lesson. Brother Steadfast points out that all Christians who do not zealously serve Jehovah are missing the purpose for which God set them free by the fall of Babylon the Great. That purpose is to heed Matthew 24:14 by preaching God's kingdom.

He also stressed that fleeing from Babylon the Great now is more urgent than it was to flee from ancient Babylon. Why? Because one's eternal destiny is involved. All destroyed with her or at Armageddon will not have a resurrection. No question about it, this drama also drove home to all who heard it that there is work yet to be done, and that we should all now zealously share in doing it.

Joyous Reports from LATIN AMERICA

Reports from the lands of Central and South America were a source of great joy at the "Peace on Earth" assembly. In South America, all together, there are now 103,166 publishers, and at the Memorial last April there was the outstanding combined attendance of 231,000. Meeting attendance in almost all countries is excellent. In Argentina very few Kingdom Halls are large enough to hold all the people who come!

So great is the increase in Venezuela that congregations are being divided simply to prevent overcrowding at the Kingdom Halls. The capital, Caracas, has 29 congregations now, and throughout the country last April 6,026 Witnesses were busy preaching—an increase of 19 percent over the previous year.

The congregations in the northern desert area of Chile form a circuit made up of 800 Witnesses. At a recent assembly in the area, over 1,000 persons attended on the *opening day*. Growing dissatisfaction with the Catholic Church and hunger for spiritual sustenance have produced a big demand for the *Truth* book, and many are the entire family groups that are delighted to have a study, using that Bible-study aid.

Witnesses in Uruguay are conducting, on an average, 4,000 Bible studies each month. This contributes toward a fine increase of active ministers. One interesting experience told of a Catholic woman who agreed to assist her husband to prepare for his weekly study with one of Jehovah's witnesses. After accepting the invitation to sit in and share, she declared: 'I never thought that such great changes would be brought about in our home, changes benefiting the whole family.' Soon she had burned all false religious pictures and broken off all association with Babylon the Great. A total of fifteen from this family now attend meetings.

In Brazil, it was reported, much attention has been given to preaching in unassigned territories, so that a witness has now been given in more than 380 towns and cities never before reached. Doubtless this made it possible for the new peak of Witnesses to be reached, namely, 57,641—a 22-percent increase over the previous year.

In Peru the Bibles and Bible literature are also going out. With 3,523 Witnesses in this land, the attendance of 11,500 at the Memorial celebration in April points to a wonderful potential for the future.

There is rejoicing in Bolivia, too, over the fact that Indians who speak the Aymara and Quechua languages have now progressed sufficiently to be organized into congregations, and be in position to preach the good news of the Kingdom to many more of their own tribes.

Yes, throughout Central and South America the Kingdom witness goes forward with happifying success. In Spanish, in Portuguese and in tribal dialects the song of joyous praise to Jehovah gains in volume.

Faraway Places Tell of Blessings

On the large island of Madagascar, off the east coast of Africa, there are over 6,000,000 persons scattered along its thousand miles of length. Missionaries and special pioneer Witnesses have been able to establish congregations and study groups all over the island. 'When one interested man learned he could not share in the Kingdom-preaching work until he cleared up his marital status,' conventioners were told, 'he hastened to the proper authorities, legalized his marriage, and the very next Sunday turned up for a share in the field service.'

Regardless of the difficulties in communication between the islands of Indonesia, Bible truth is reaching those who live there too. In ten years' time congregations have increased from 16 to 73. Now 1,878 Witnesses are busy in the area. Among them is a man who briefly read one of the Society's books many years ago when traveling. Thereafter he searched many bookshops to find a copy of the book for himself. Fourteen years later a special pioneer, opening up new territory in Borneo, called at his home. "He not only got the book," assembly delegates were told, "but he got the truth of God's Word from it. Now he and his wife are dedicated and zealously help others do likewise."

The island known as Mauritius now has 199 active Witnesses, some of whom renounced demonistic practices. The speaker said: "One brother who is now a congregation overseer and special pioneer, in his younger days was so under the influence of the demons that he, on three different occasions, took part in worshiping the family gods by walking on fire." But Bible truth makes big changes.

The representative speaking for Hawaii told that those islands now have one publisher for every 266 of the population. Territory is covered often, and results are good. He said: "One of the outstanding features in Hawaii is the good pioneer spirit. There are pioneers in every congregation. . . . Many have made the pioneer service their career right after graduation from high school."

In the territory under the

Fiji branch newly interested ones show a definite readiness to attend meetings after just a few studies, the convention audience heard. As a result, the 862 publishers, in the ten fascinating island countries under the Fiji branch, rejoice to observe 1,460 at their weekly *Watchtower* studies. The publishers set a fine example in appreciation for the meetings. Some walk for many hours, crossing hills and rivers, to get to the Kingdom Hall. One brother and his wife walk 16 miles to and from meetings, often arriving home at 2 a.m. In a delta area one brother sets out early with his boat to gather together the brothers so all can be at the Sunday-morning meetings, and once they get together they spend the entire day in happy association.

New Zealanders, too, are experiencing blessings, as their report at the assembly showed. During 1968 they averaged 4,700 publishers, but over ten thousand showed up for the Memorial. "One congregation of 130 publishers had 317 come along," the speaker said. "There was no room in the Kingdom Hall for many of them so the overflow crowded around the opened windows and listened from outside."

"Thailand or Siam is a friendly and peaceful country and the work of preaching the good news has been carried on freely for the past thirty years," the representative of that land said. "But this is the situation: Ninety-four percent of the population is Buddhist, with a few Islam, Confucianist and Hindu. Less than one percent is nominal Christian. So the majority of the people we preach to are totally unfamiliar with the Bible and even with the idea of a personal God. The Thai language does not even have a word that would be the exact equivalent of the word 'god' and Babylonish traditions are deeply ingrained in the minds of the people. It takes much endurance on the part of the publishers to persevere in preaching and teaching Bible truths. But the sheep are found." In April 350 publishers reported, and 62 of them were in the pioneer service. Indeed, Jehovah is blessing the work of his people in all parts of the earth.

PREACHING CONTINUES BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN

Reports on the progress of the Kingdom-preaching work behind the Iron Curtain are of keen interest to Jehovah's witnesses. In brief interviews at the assembly, the situation in eastern Europe was revealed.

From East Germany, for example, where authorities have long been trying to promote a Communist-controlled organization of Witnesses, it was reported that this enemy strategy is not succeeding. Loyal brothers still meet together, but in small groups, because of strict surveillance of their movements. On April 1 they assembled to commemorate the memorial of Christ's death. Gradually thereafter reports trickled in, eventually showing that the total attendance was 84 percent over last year's average number of publishers in East Germany.

The continued activity of Jehovah's people underground in Hungary has resulted in a fine witness of itself, for the Witnesses have become widely known. They were even highlighted in a play that was broadcast over the national radio. Based on real-life experience, the play depicted a young teacher who had not been well taken care of by the Communist party. Only when, through some Witness children in her class, she obtained the assistance of their parents, did she manage to get a suitable place in which to lodge. The atmosphere of the Witness home broke down all her prejudice, and she became a Witness herself. Of course, the purpose of the play was to bring home to Communists the need to take good care of their people.

In Poland, it was reported, after several years of an easing up in the government's attitude toward their work, Witnesses were now noting indications of a return to sterner measures. One public prosecutor complained that the Witnesses would flood the country with their literature. But the brothers in Poland say: "We hear everywhere about much interest. . . . The number of Bible studies is still on the increase."

How did Czechoslovakia's recent critical situation affect the Witnesses and their work? A spokesman reported that the Witnesses showed themselves completely neutral, and this drew attention to them and their work. Typical of the reactions to the peaceful stance of the Witnesses were these words of a high official to one of the Witnesses: "It is you, Jehovah's witnesses alone, who have proved to take a wise course. We have a high opinion of you." Meantime, under stress of local conditions many are the honest-hearted ones who are turning to the Bible's message of hope.

In Communism's own homeland, the U.S.S.R., how are Jehovah's witnesses faring? It was learned that they too have their conventions in a suitable fashion, in such places and circumstances that they do not draw undue attention to themselves. Last year, one convention group of about seventy Witnesses was surprised by police, who immediately demanded to know who was in charge of the meeting. Tactfully the Witnesses replied that Jehovah God and Christ Jesus are in charge of all such matters. The officers jotted down the names of some brothers and left quickly. There was no follow-up on their part.

At the end of 1968 arrests and resulting prison terms were resumed, apparently ending a certain period of "peaceful coexistence." Nevertheless, the month of March brought with it a peak of publishers surpassing last year's average by 21 percent.

Romania and Bulgaria were other lands from which the conventioners listened to reports. Very little literature is available, and the secret police watch every step of those known to be Witnesses. Yet they faithfully carry on, exercising caution, and giving forth the Kingdom's message of hope whenever opportunity presents. Witnesses in those lands ask their spiritual brothers elsewhere, "Pray for us!" Their faith in Jehovah is strong.

In a message to this "Peace on Earth" International Assembly, the Witnesses behind the Iron Curtain joined in declaring of Jehovah: "An arm with mightiness is yours, your hand is strong, your right hand is exalted"!—Ps. 89:13.

DO YOU HAVE THESE CONVENTION RELEASES?

IS THE BIBLE REALLY THE WORD OF GOD?

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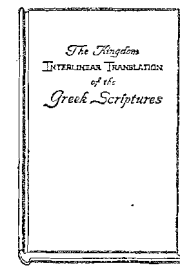
KINGDOM INTERLINEAR TRANSLATION OF THE GREEK SCRIPTURES



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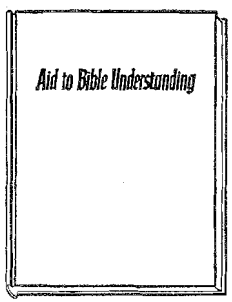

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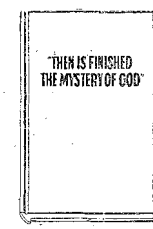

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